



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 3 October, 2023

1. The House met at 11.10 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, 26 September, 2023.

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

4. **Announcement**  
***Discharge of Ad-hoc Committees:***  
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the discharge of all *Ad-hoc* Committees and urged them to submit their reports immediately. He directed *Ad-hoc* Committees with pending investigation to recommend same to the Standing Committees that have jurisdictions on the matter.

5. **Remarks by the Deputy Speaker**  
Mr Deputy Speaker noted that the events of the previous weeks were remarkable and instructive in our national history. He recalled that the events of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Independence celebration, Ed-el-maulud. Mr Speaker's birthday anniversary as well as the calling-off of the strike actions by the Nigeria Labour Congress/Trade Union Congress were all positive development. He expressed delight at the decision of the labour union to call off their proposed strike action, stating that it gave credence to age of reasoning, a platform for jaw, jaw rather than war, war, and collective good for our national development. He appreciated all those that played role in averting the strike.

He commended the efforts of the present administration led by the President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu in providing 1003 Mass Transit Buses to ease transportation as a step in the right direction. Mr Deputy Speaker noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter rise in oil production from 1.2 mbpd to 1.4 mbpd was an improvement in the national economic development. He maintained that continued synergy between the Executive and the National Assembly is a solution for the economic growth in the country.

**6. Petitions**

- (i) Hon. Afam Victor Ogene (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*) presented and laid the following petitions:
- (a) Centre Against Injustice and Domestic Violence, on alleged criminal conspiracy and diversion of public funds by the Managing Director, Rural Electrification Agency;
  - (b) Concerned Retirees of Federal Mortgage Finance Limited, on the non-payment of their pensions by Pension Transitional Directorate (PTAD);
  - (c) Chika Uka, on the non-payment of Forty-Eight Million, Four Hundred Thousand Naira (₦48,400,000:00) by the Management of National Assembly, being the contract sum for the supply of office equipment in 2014;
  - (d) Law Creep Attorneys (Legal Practitioners), on alleged extortion of Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination Registrants by the National Communication Commission and Telecommunications Service providers;
  - (e) A. E. Adahe & Co. (Solicitors & Practitioners), on behalf of Umoh Edet against the termination of his appointment by Julius Berger Nigerian Limited;
  - (f) Rising Up for a United Nigeria, on the alleged call for the unconditional release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and the need to avoid interference with the judicial process;
  - (g) K. E. Okoro & Co., on behalf of Mpape residents, on the alleged environment hazards caused by the operations of Sandplex Quarry;
  - (h) K. E. Okoro & Co., on behalf of Kabusa residents, on the alleged environment hazards caused by the operations of Charity Quarry;
  - (i) Throneroom Attorneys (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Julius-Fifen and 33 others, on the termination of their appointment by the Chairman, Federal Civil Services Commission and the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation;
  - (j) Ufo Association Limited, on the diversion of the sum of \$4,511,005,820 Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT) revenue belonging to the Federation and the three tiers of government by the Federal Inland Revenue Service;
  - (k) BU & Associate Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Ebitu Nssien and others, on the non-compliance with court judgment (FHC/UY/CS/24/03);
- (ii) Hon. Akiba Bassey Ekpenyong (*Calabar Municipal/Odukpani Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from Obasi Pharsons Help Foundation, on the alleged financial mismanagement and neglect of retired military officers by the Military Pensions Board;
- (iii) Hon. David Umar (*Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from Social Justice & Civil Rights Awareness Initiative, on the alleged breach of the provisions of the PTA, Nigeria content Acts and Contract Marketing against Starling Oil Exploration and Energy Production;
- (iv) Hon. Onwusibe Ginger Obinna (*Isiala Ngwa North/South Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from Paulinus Agu, on alleged withholding of eight months salaries of Lecturers of Federal Universities, by the Federal Government of Nigeria;
- (v) Hon. Osawaru Billy Famous Adesuwa (*Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*)

presented and laid a petition from Nemo Judex Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Ikot Abasi and Eastern Obolo Local Government Areas, Akwa-Ibom, on alleged nefarious and illegal activities of Starling Oil Exploration & Energy Company Limited and Sterling Petrochemical Fertilizer Company Limited.

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

**(i) Escalating and Persistent Insecurity and Banditry Attacks in the North West Region of Nigeria:**

Hon. Kabiru Amadu (*Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency and 27 Others*) 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.*

**Escalating and Persistent Insecurity and Banditry Attacks in the North West Region of Nigeria:**

The House:

*Notes* that in the past three months, there has been a significant rise in banditry activities within Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, and Kaduna States with the surge in violence resulting in numerous casualties and displacement of considerable number of residents;

*Also notes* that in Zamfara State, the innocent casualties of these attacks who are mostly farmers, women, children, and students have been cut off from their means of livelihood;

*Concerned* that an alarming surge of abductions is currently unfolding within Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency in Zamfara State, with the deeply troubling upswing in abduction incidents, witnessed recently on 22 September, 2023, when heavily armed Bandits stormed off campus female hostel of Federal University, Gusau and abducted over 40 female students, only 13 were rescued by the military so far, on 21 August, 2023, eight NYSC members from Akwa Ibom State were also kidnapped on their way to Sokoto State, and as of the present moment, they remain in captivity;

*Also concerned* that in Tsafe town, six persons were brutally killed and dozens were taken hostage, on 21 September, 2023, while a notable young businessman who is into the telecommunication business named Anas Umar Wali Tsafe was gruesomely murdered by Bandits at exactly 8:00 p.m inside his residence;

*Further concerned* that this wave of criminality has since extended its reach into various communities such as Magami, Mada, Hayin Alhaji, Wanzamai, K/Kanuwa, Yan Kuzo, Yanware, Mareri, Damba, and Karazau;

*Worried* that in Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency alone, over 126 individuals were abducted including 33 children, and tragically, more than 56 innocent lives were claimed, all in the span of these 3 months;

*Observes* that these grim events have not only left a trail of sorrow, but sparked widespread concern and outcry among the constituents where the people feel that they are abandoned, ignored, rejected, unwanted, forsaken, neglected and unattended by the Government;

*Worried* that the security situation remains precarious within the region for over a decade with residents continually killed and kidnapped on a daily basis without anything being done by the government;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence for the departed souls;
- (ii) call on the Federal Government to intensify efforts towards rescuing all those held hostage by these Criminals, conduct a comprehensive investigation into these Bandit attacks, apprehension of those responsible, and their prosecution to the fullest extent of the law;
- (iii) urge the President and Commander in Chief to direct the relocation of the Defense Ministry to the Northwest region until peace and sanity are fully restored;
- (iv) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to deploy additional security personnel equipped with adequate logistical support, to concerned States in order to fortify security measures and thwart any potential future attacks;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Legislative Compliance, Defence, National Security and Intelligence, and Police Affairs to ensure strict compliance with these resolutions (*Hon. Kabiru Amadu Mai Palace — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency and Twenty-seven Others*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:  
“Urge the Federal Government to stop the issue of illegal mining in the affected State” (*Hon. Bello A Kaoje — Bagudo/Suru Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) In the Prayer (v) immediately after the words, “Police Affairs”, *insert* the words “Mining” (*Hon. Bello A Kaoje — Bagudo/Suru Federal Constituency*).

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

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vii), as follows:  
“urge the Federal Government to increase security agency in the zone and proffer strategic measure in place to legalise the illegal activity” (*Hon. Isa Mohammed Anka — Anka/Marafa Federal Constituency*).

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

- (iv) *Insert* a new Prayer (viii) as follows:  
“urge the Federal Government to implement the resolutions” (*Hon. Isa Mohammed Anka — Anka/Marafa Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that in the past three months, there has been a significant rise in banditry activities within Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, and Kaduna States with the surge in violence resulting in numerous casualties and displacement of considerable number of residents;

*Also noted* that in Zamfara State, the innocent casualties of these attacks who are mostly farmers, women, children, and students have been cut off from their means of livelihood;

*Concerned* that an alarming surge of abductions is currently unfolding within Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency in Zamfara State, with the deeply troubling upswing in abduction incidents, witnessed recently on 22 September, 2023, when heavily armed Bandits stormed off campus female hostel of Federal University, Gusau and abducted over 40 female students, only 13 were rescued by the military so far, on 21 August, 2023, eight NYSC members from Akwa Ibom State were also kidnapped on their way to Sokoto State, and as of the present moment, they remain in captivity;

*Also concerned* that in Tsafe town, six persons were brutally killed and dozens were taken hostage, on 21 September, 2023, while a notable young businessman who is into the telecommunication business named Anas Umar Wali Tsafe was gruesomely murdered by Bandits at exactly 8:00 p.m inside his residence;

*Further concerned* that this wave of criminality has since extended its reach into various communities such as Magami, Mada, Hayin Alhaji, Wanzamai, K/Kanuwa, Yan Kuzo, Yanware, Mareri, Damba, and Karazau;

*Worried* that in Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency alone, over 126 individuals were abducted including 33 children, and tragically, more than 56 innocent lives were claimed, all in the span of these 3 months;

*Observed* that these grim events have not only left a trail of sorrow, but sparked widespread concern and outcry among the constituents where the people feel that they are abandoned, ignored, rejected, unwanted, forsaken, neglected and unattended by the Government;

*Worried* that the security situation remains precarious within the region for over a decade with residents continually killed and kidnapped on a daily basis without anything being done by the government;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence for the departed souls;
- (ii) call on the Federal Government to intensify efforts towards rescuing all those held hostage by these Criminals, conduct a comprehensive investigation into these Bandit attacks, apprehension of those responsible, and their prosecution to the fullest extent of the law;
- (iii) urge the President and Commander in Chief to direct the relocation of the Defense Ministry to the Northwest region until peace and sanity are fully restored;
- (iv) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to deploy additional security personnel equipped with adequate logistical support, to concerned States in order to fortify security measures and thwart any potential future attacks;

- (v) further urge the Federal Government to stop the issue of illegal mining in the affected State;
  - (vi) still urge the Federal Government to increase security agency in the zone and proffer strategic measure in place to legalise the illegal activity;
  - (vii) again urge the Federal Government to implement the resolutions;
  - (viii) mandate the Committees on Legislative Compliance, Defence, National Security and Intelligence, Police Affairs, and Mining, to ensure strict compliance with these resolutions (**HR. 185/10/2023**).
- (ii) ***Need to Reconstruct the Collapsed Bridge at New Artisan Enugu Section of Enugu-Port Harcourt Federal Expressway and Other South Eastern Deteriorating Roads:***  
Hon. Nnolim Nnaji (*Nkanu East/Nkanu West 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 Reconstruct the Collapsed Bridge at New Artisan Enugu Section of Enugu-Port Harcourt Federal Expressway and Other South Eastern Deteriorating Roads:**

The House:

*Notes* that on Monday, 5 September, 2023, a tragedy occurred as a bridge along the Enugu-Port Harcourt Federal Expressway at the New Artisan Market in the Enugu section of the road, collapsed, when a truck conveying Nigerian Breweries products and an unidentified lorry were on the bridge;

*Also notes* that there was no loss of life during the incident as emergency responders quickly swung into action to ensure that no unwary vehicle plunged into the water underneath the bridge;

*Disturbed* that the collapsed bridge left commuters seriously stranded for a long time as traffic was diverted within the area where the bridge collapsed to avoid terrific traffic jam and chaos in the State;

*Cognizant* that this collapsed bridge which is of great economic value to Nigeria, is not only located along Enugu federal expressway, but is equally a connecting road to some parts of Imo State, Ebonyi State, then to Umuahia and Aba (commercial nerve centre of South East) both in Abia State, finally connecting some other South-South region like Port Harcourt in Rivers State, Cross River and Akwa Ibom States respectively;

*Concerned* that if this bridge is not urgently repaired, it will affect logistics and movement of goods and services and also business-economic growth in Enugu State and across some other states, leading to huge losses and sufferings of commuters;

*Further notes* that a bridge is constructed over the road for the purpose of traffic management in various cities, as well as curbing road accident mishaps, prevalent traffic jam and disasters which may lead to high rate of human deaths and injuries;

*Still notes* that the collapse of bridges can be caused by overloaded or heavy duty transport vehicles operating daily on the road as well as lack of periodic infrastructural maintenance of the bridges. The incidence and prevalence of this occurrence in our country have been alarming over the years;

*Again notes* that it has become imperative to examine the phenomena of highway disasters with a view to underscoring its implications on national security in Nigeria, as a veritable threat to road safety as well as human security, in view of its destructive impacts and complications and urgent need for construction of quality bridges and its maintenance to curb the menace;

*Observed* that statistical study shows the alarming state of dilapidating roads and bridges in South East due to long neglect and paucity of funds to reconstruct or maintain the roads as the collapse of bridges and deteriorating road infrastructure seems to be on a growing trend, which calls for urgent intervention;

*Worried* that these unprecedented and hideous incidents have been reoccurring incessantly despite public outcry in the media and other mediums, as several road mishaps and collapse of bridges in Nigeria have consequential effects on human safety and our environment, hence exposing our lack of accident risk management structure;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Works, to urgently intervene in the reconstruction of this collapsed bridge at New Artisan, Enugu-Port Harcourt expressways, and also the Aba-Port Harcourt section of same road due to its commercial importance to the nation and provide lasting solution to this road deteriorating menace in South East;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to ensure that adequate funds are provided for durable roads and bridges with optimum facilities across South East, as well as taking proactive measures to ensure maximum safety of lives through quality risk assessment and implementation of safety findings;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Works, to monitor and liaise with Federal Ministry of Works in adhering spontaneously with the resolutions to repair the aforementioned collapsed bridge and other South Eastern roads;
- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance with any legislative framework and the resolutions thereof and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Nnolim Nnaji — Nkanu East/West Federal Constituency and Ten Others*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Insert Prayer (iv), line 3, leave out the words “two (2)”, and insert the words “three (3)” (Hon. Agbedi Yetiemore Frederick — Sagbama/Ekeremor Federal Constituency).*

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that on Monday, 5 September, 2023, a tragedy occurred as a bridge along the

Enugu-Port Harcourt Federal Expressway at the New Artisan Market in the Enugu section of the road, collapsed, when a truck conveying Nigerian Breweries products and an unidentified lorry were on the bridge;

*Also noted* that there was no loss of life during the incident as emergency responders quickly swung into action to ensure that no unwary vehicle plunged into the water underneath the bridge;

*Disturbed* that the collapsed bridge left commuters seriously stranded for a long time as traffic was diverted within the area where the bridge collapsed to avoid terrific traffic jam and chaos in the State;

*Cognizant* that this collapsed bridge which is of great economic value to Nigeria, is not only located along Enugu federal expressway, but is equally a connecting road to some parts of Imo State, Ebonyi State, then to Umuahia and Aba (commercial nerve centre of South East) both in Abia State, finally connecting some other South-South region like Port Harcourt in Rivers State, Cross River and Akwa Ibom States respectively;

*Concerned* that if this bridge is not urgently repaired, it will affect logistics and movement of goods and services and also business-economic growth in Enugu State and across some other states, leading to huge losses and sufferings of commuters;

*Further noted* that a bridge is constructed over the road for the purpose of traffic management in various cities, as well as curbing road accident mishaps, prevalent traffic jam and disasters which may lead to high rate of human deaths and injuries;

*Still noted* that the collapse of bridges can be caused by overloaded or heavy duty transport vehicles operating daily on the road as well as lack of periodic infrastructural maintenance of the bridges. The incidence and prevalence of this occurrence in our country have been alarming over the years;

*Again noted* that it has become imperative to examine the phenomena of highway disasters with a view to underscoring its implications on national security in Nigeria, as a veritable threat to road safety as well as human security, in view of its destructive impacts and complications and urgent need for construction of quality bridges and its maintenance to curb the menace;

*Observed* that statistical study shows the alarming state of dilapidating roads and bridges in South East due to long neglect and paucity of funds to reconstruct or maintain the roads as the collapse of bridges and deteriorating road infrastructure seems to be on a growing trend, which calls for urgent intervention;

*Worried* that these unprecedented and hideous incidents have been reoccurring incessantly despite public outcry in the media and other mediums, as several road mishaps and collapse of bridges in Nigeria have consequential effects on human safety and our environment, hence exposing our lack of accident risk management structure;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Works, to urgently intervene in the reconstruction of this collapsed bridge at New Artisan, Enugu-Port Harcourt expressways, and also the Aba-Port Harcourt section of same road due to its commercial importance to the nation and provide lasting solution to this road deteriorating menace in South East;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to ensure that adequate funds are provided for



durable roads and bridges with optimum facilities across South East, as well as taking proactive measures to ensure maximum safety of lives through quality risk assessment and implementation of safety findings;

- (iii) mandate the Committee on Works, to monitor and liaise with Federal Ministry of Works in adhering spontaneously with the resolutions to repair the aforementioned collapsed bridge and other South Eastern roads;
- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance with any legislative framework and the resolutions thereof and report within three (3) weeks (**HR. 186/10/2023**).

***Motion made and Question proposed***, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than two matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

***Agreed to.***

- (iii) ***Need to Stop Killing Peasant Farmers in Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency and Provide Safe and Reliable Security for Farmers to Harvest Their Hard-Earned Farm Produce:***

Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha (*Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza 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 Stop Killing Peasant Farmers in Chibok, Damboa and Gwoza Local Government Areas of Borno State and Provide Safe and Reliable Security for Farmers to Harvest their Hard-Earned Farm Produce:**

The House:

*Aware* of the fact that agriculture is the backbone of our economy and the main source of livelihood for the majority of our constituents, we cannot afford to overlook the constant attacks on our farmers. These attacks not only result in loss of lives but also severely disrupt food production, leading to food scarcity, increased prices, and economic instability in our constituency;

*Concerned* that the persistent insecurity in the Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency has created an environment of fear and uncertainty, discouraging farmers from cultivating their lands and leaving their hard-earned farm produce unharvested. This not only leads to financial losses for the farmers but also exacerbates the food insecurity situation in our constituency and the country as a whole;

*Acknowledges* the efforts of the security agencies in combatting insurgency and terrorism in our constituency, we must recognize that more needs to be done to provide a safe and reliable security environment for our farmers. The current security measures have proven inadequate in deterring attacks on innocent farmers, and it is high time we take decisive action to protect their lives and ensure their economic well-being;

*Realizes* that the killing of peasant farmers goes beyond a local issue and has broader implications for national security, as it directly impacts our food production and the stability of our nation. It is imperative that we prioritize the safety of our farmers, who toil day and night to provide food for our nation, and create an enabling environment for them to carry out their agricultural activities without fear or hindrance;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Armed of Government to, in collaboration with the State and Local Governments, deploy additional security personnel and resources to the Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency to provide adequate protection to peasant farmers and their farms;
- (ii) also urge the security agencies to intensify intelligence gathering and surveillance activities in the constituency to identify and apprehend the perpetrators of attacks on farmers;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to establish a special task force dedicated to addressing the security challenges in the Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency, with a mandate to protect the lives and property of the farmers;
- (iv) still urge the Executive Arms of Government to provide financial assistance and support to affected farmers who have suffered losses due to attacks, to help them recover and sustain their agricultural activities;
- (v) again urge the Executive Arm of Government to engage in dialogue and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including community leaders, traditional rulers, and local vigilante groups, to develop a comprehensive security strategy tailored to the specific needs of the Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency;
- (vi) urge the Executive Arm of Government to invest in infrastructure development, such as access roads, communication network and rural electrification, to improve the security and economic viability of the Constituency (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:  
“Urge the Federal Government to engage Agro Rangers nation wide to protect farmers during harvest” (*Hon. Dachung Bagos — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) In Prayer (iii), immediately after the word “constituency”, *insert* the words “Askira/Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency” (*Hon. Midala Usman — Askira/Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Aware* of the fact that agriculture is the backbone of our economy and the main source of

livelihood for the majority of our constituents, we cannot afford to overlook the constant attacks on our farmers. These attacks not only result in loss of lives but also severely disrupt food production, leading to food scarcity, increased prices, and economic instability in our constituency;

*Concerned* that the persistent insecurity in the Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency has created an environment of fear and uncertainty, discouraging farmers from cultivating their lands and leaving their hard-earned farm produce unharvested. This not only leads to financial losses for the farmers but also exacerbates the food insecurity situation in our constituency and the country as a whole;

*Acknowledged* the efforts of the security agencies in combatting insurgency and terrorism in our constituency, we must recognize that more needs to be done to provide a safe and reliable security environment for our farmers. The current security measures have proven inadequate in deterring attacks on innocent farmers, and it is high time we take decisive action to protect their lives and ensure their economic well-being;

*Realized* that the killing of peasant farmers goes beyond a local issue and has broader implications for national security, as it directly impacts our food production and the stability of our nation. It is imperative that we prioritize the safety of our farmers, who toil day and night to provide food for our nation, and create an enabling environment for them to carry out their agricultural activities without fear or hindrance;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Armed of Government to, in collaboration with the State and Local Governments, deploy additional security personnel and resources to the Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency to provide adequate protection to peasant farmers and their farms;
- (ii) also urge the security agencies to intensify intelligence gathering and surveillance activities in the constituency to identify and apprehend the perpetrators of attacks on farmers;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to establish a special task force dedicated to addressing the security challenges in the Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency, and Askira/Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency, with a mandate to protect the lives and property of the farmers;
- (iv) still urge the Executive Arms of Government to provide financial assistance and support to affected farmers who have suffered losses due to attacks, to help them recover and sustain their agricultural activities;
- (v) again urge the Executive Arm of Government to engage in dialogue and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including community leaders, traditional rulers, and local vigilante groups, to develop a comprehensive security strategy tailored to the specific needs of the Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency;
- (vi) urge the Executive Arm of Government to invest in infrastructure development, such as access roads, communication network and rural electrification, to improve the security and economic viability of the Constituency;
- (v) urge the Federal Government to engage Agro Rangers nation wide to protect farmers during harvest (**HR. 187/10/2023**).

**8. Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule 5)**

Hon. Solomon Bob (*Abua/Odua/Ahoada Federal Constituency*) invited the attention of the House to the existence of so many motions in the House without corresponding implementation by the Executive. He regretted that while the parliament often churn out motions on the floor of the House, they were unnecessary if not implemented by the Executive Arm of Government.

***Ruling:** Mr Deputy Speaker discountenance his personal explanation and noted that the House must discharge its constitutional responsibility as the voice of the people without predicating it on the performance of the Executive or any other Arm of the Government.*

**9. Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Institute of Chartered Corporate and Business Affairs Management of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.480).
- (2) Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.481).
- (3) Nigerian Peace Corps (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.482).
- (4) National Housing Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.483).
- (5) National Youth Service Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.484).
- (6) Federal Medical Centre, Koko, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.485).
- (7) Federal College of Agriculture, Misau, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.486).
- (8) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.487).
- (9) National Football Academy, Kpor, Rivers State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.488).
- (10) Federal Medical Centre, Ugwuaji Awkunanaw, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.489).
- (11) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.490).
- (12) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition Ikem Nkwo, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.491).
- (13) Nigerian Communications Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.492).
- (14) Federal Capital Territory Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.493).
- (15) Federal College of Education, Mutum Biyu, Taraba State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.494).
- (16) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.495).
- (17) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Ode-Itsekiri, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.496).
- (18) Federal Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship, Bungudu (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.497).
- (19) Petroleum Industry Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.498).
- (20) Federal Medical Centre, Port Harcourt (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.499).

**10. Presentation of Reports**

- (i) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Investigate the Arbitrary Increase of Petrol Pump Price from ₦537 to ₦617:***

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Investigate the Arbitrary Increase of Petrol Pump Price from ₦537 to ₦617” (Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

- (ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB):***

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) on the Extension of the Validity period of UTME Result for at least three (3) years and conduct of the Examination twice Annually (HR. 68/07/2023)” (Hon. Akume Regina — Gboko/Tarka Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

- (iii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate Alleged Fictitious Contract Awards, Gross Mismanagement of Billions of Naira and Lopsided placement of Directors by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA):***

*Order deferred by leave of the House.*

- (iv) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the cause of Delay in Completing the Construction of the Abuja - Kaduna - Kano Highway:***

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the cause of Delay in Completing the Construction of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Highway (HR. 31/07/2023)” (Hon. Abdussamad Dasuki — Kebbe/Tambuwal Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**11. A Bill for an Act to Provide a Policy Framework for the Development of Bio-Fuels Energy Industry in Nigeria, Establish Bio-Fuels Energy Regulatory Commission, and Establish Bio - Fuels Research Agency and for Related Matters (HB. 08) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide a Policy Framework for the Development of Bio-Fuels Energy Industry in Nigeria, Establish Bio-Fuels Energy Regulatory Commission, and Establish Bio - Fuels Research Agency and for Related Matters (HB. 08) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency and 6 Others).*

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Science Research Institutions.*

**12. Nigeria's 63<sup>rd</sup> Independence Anniversary**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that on Sunday, October 1, 2023, Nigeria celebrated her 63<sup>rd</sup> Independence Anniversary;

*Also notes* that the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces addressed the nation where he appreciated and acknowledged the contribution of Nigeria's past leaders;

*Aware* that from the day of independence Nigeria has witnessed a lot of progress as well as challenges;

*Also aware* that the present Administration is poised to address the challenges and provide far reaching and sustainable solutions to the nations problems.

*Resolves to:*

Urge the Nigerian political class and leaders in general to sit up, refocus, re-strategize and work together to make Nigeria a better place for all (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Nigeria celebrated her 63<sup>rd</sup> Independence Anniversary;

*Also noted* that the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces addressed the nation where he appreciated and acknowledged the contribution of Nigeria's past leaders;

*Aware* that from the day of independence Nigeria has witnessed a lot of progress as well as challenges;

*Also aware* that the present Administration is poised to address the challenges and provide far reaching and sustainable solutions to the nations problems.

*Resolved to:*

Urge the Nigerian political class and leaders in general to sit up, refocus, re-strategize and work together to make Nigeria a better place for all (**HR. 188/10/2023**).

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

Hon. Solomon Bob (*Abua/Odua/Ahoada Federal Constituency*) noted that Mr Deputy Speaker's decision to close debate on the 63<sup>rd</sup> Independence Celebration of Nigeria as arbitrary. He noted that he was disappointed that Members were not allowed to exhaust debate on the matter. He considered that as a breach of his privilege and that of the House.

***Ruling:*** Mr Deputy Speaker countered his averment, stating that he had given ample opportunity for Members to ventilate their views on the subject matter and that pursuant to Order 10, Rule 2, his decision on the matter was final and not open to appeal or review except upon a substantial motion. He ordered Hon. Solomon Bob to withdraw his unparliamentary language or face consequence in line with Standing Orders.

*Accordingly Hon Solomon Bob withdrew his earlier statement and apologized to the House.*

**14. Call on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to Intensify Efforts to Secure the Immediate and Safe Release of the Seven Abducted Corps Members in Zamfara State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) is a vital national programme aimed at fostering unity and promoting national development by deploying graduates to various States for a mandatory one year of service;

*Also notes* that on 17 August, 2023, eight corps members from Akwa Ibom State were abducted by gunmen in Zamfara State, on their way to the place of primary assignment (PPA) with a current demand of two hundred million Naira;

*Aware* that in May 2023, seven corps members were kidnapped in Rivers State on their way from the orientation camp in Ondo State and released after paying ransom;

*Alarmed* at the incident accounts for the many other corps members who have had to go through the traumatic experience of abduction in the course of their service to the nation;

*Worried* that continuous re-occurrence targeted at innocent corps members has raised significant security concerns, threatened the lives of young citizens, eroded public trust and confidence in the government's ability to protect its citizens, and posed the potential to mar the core objective of the National Youth Service Corps;

*Cognizant* of the urgent need for drastic measures to secure the immediate release of the remain seven abducted corps members following the release of one of them, as confirmed by the Director General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) on 20 September, 2023 and restore confidence in the nation's national security system;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and other security agencies to intensify efforts and deploy personnel and intelligence capabilities to secure the immediate and safe release of the seven abducted corps members still in captivity; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance and report within one (1) week (*Hon. Unyime Josiah Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency and 9 Others*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “corps members”, *insert* the words “40 female students of Federal University, Gusau who were abducted in Zamfara State” (*Hon. Dachung Bagos — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) In Prayer (i), as amended, immediately after the words “Zamfara State”, *insert* the words “and strengthen security apparatus in Ningi, Alkaleri, Dass, Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi Local Government Areas, in Bauchi State, and Saminaka in Kaduna State” (*Hon. Dabo Ismaila Haruna — Toro Federal Constituency*).

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

- (iii) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*  
“urge the Federal Government to deploy Special Anti-Kidnapping Squad to the affected areas” (*Hon. Dabo Ismaila Haruna — Toro Federal Constituency*).

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

- (iv) *Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:*  
“urge the Federal Government to encourage community policing so that people will be armed to defend themselves under the supervision of the security agencies” (*Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Dabai — Bakori/Danja Federal Constituency*).

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

- (v) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*  
“urge the National Security Adviser to organise a security summit with a view to streamlining and a synergise unified approach to solving the security problem in North West” (*Hon. Suleiman Abubakar Gunmi — Gunmi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*).

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

- (vi) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*  
“urge the Governors in the North West zone to join hands together to fight this war” (*Hon. Muhammed Jamilu — Faskari/Kankara/Sabwa Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) is a vital national programme aimed at fostering unity and promoting national development by deploying graduates to various States for a mandatory one year of service;

*Also noted* that on 17 August, 2023, eight corps members from Akwa Ibom State were abducted by gunmen in Zamfara State, on their way to the place of primary assignment (PPA) with a current demand of two hundred million Naira;

*Aware* that in May 2023, seven corps members were kidnapped in Rivers State on their way from the orientation camp in Ondo State and released after paying ransom;

*Alarmed* at the incident accounts for the many other corps members who have had to go through the traumatic experience of abduction in the course of their service to the nation;

*Worried* that continuous re-occurrence targeted at innocent corps members has raised significant security concerns, threatened the lives of young citizens, eroded public trust and confidence in the government's ability to protect its citizens, and posed the potential to mar the core objective of the National Youth Service Corps;

*Cognizant* of the urgent need for drastic measures to secure the immediate release of the remain seven abducted corps members following the release of one of them, as confirmed by the Director General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) on 20 September, 2023 and restore confidence in the nation's national security system;



*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and other security agencies to intensify efforts and deploy personnel and intelligence capabilities to secure the immediate and safe release of the seven abducted corps members and 40 female students of Federal University, Gusau who were abducted in Zamfara State, and strengthen security apparatus in Ningi, Alkaleri, Dass, Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi Local Government Areas, in Bauchi State, and Saminaka in Kaduna State, still in captivity;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to deploy Special Anti-Kidnapping Squad to the affected areas;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to encourage community policing so that people will be armed to defend themselves under the supervision of the security agencies;
- (iv) still urge the National Security Adviser to organise a security summit with a view to streamlining and a synergise unified approach to solving the security problem in North West;
- (v) again urge the Governors in the North West zone to join hands together to fight this war; and
- (vi) mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance and report within one (1) week (**HR. 189/10/2023**).

**15. Need to Avert the Rising Tension of Sea incursion Ravaging Ayetoro Community in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the oil-producing Ayetoro Community is not just a major revenue source of the nation, but a phenomenal historical and cultural settlement along the coastal stretch of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State;

*Also notes* that Ayetoro Community and its environs account for 5.4 per cent of the 60,000 Barrel Per Day (BPD) of Ondo State's crude oil production output amounting to about 3.7 per cent of Nigeria's total oil production ranking Ondo State 5th among Nigeria's oil-producing states as captured by the NNDC law;

*Disturbed* that devastating sea incursions and ocean surges have been the albatross of the Ayetoro community for over two decades destroying properties and displacement of indigenes, thus disrupting the oil-exploration activities owing to varied reactions by indigenes of the area;

*Worried* that the surge has become an annual occurrence and an alarming rate that successive administrations in Ondo State appear and overwhelmed, thus helpless;

*Also disturbed* that the Niger Delta Development Commission (NNDC) in 2004 attempted to stem the slide by awarding the contract for the construction of a shoreline protective wall designed with a tube technology in Ayetoro to Gallet Nigeria Limited at an original contract sum of ₦6.4 billion, of which 25 per cent was reportedly paid, but the contract was revoked in 2009 for alleged lack of capacity and re-awarded to Dredging Atlantic Limited at an undisclosed cost and sixteen years after the contract was first awarded, there is nothing to show any intervention by the government;

*Concerned* that owing to this pitiable level of no action by the mobilised contractor(s), a particular surge that happened towards the end of the year 2020 reportedly caused the displacement of nearly 2,000 people, 13 deaths and the destruction of over 200 homes;

*Also concerned* that the situation has generated tension in the oil-producing communities as restive youths have reportedly commenced mobilising themselves to disrupt the lawful activities of oil-producing companies, thereby creating a state of unease and seeming insecurity;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide temporary relief materials to cushion the immediate impact of the ravaging sea incursion on the latest victims;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission and Ecological Fund to investigate the failure of the performance of the ₦6.5 billion shoreline protection contract awarded by the Niger Delta Development Commission in 2006 to find an alternative solution where necessary, to stem the dangerous side and report in four (4) weeks;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Donald Kimikanoh Ojogo — Ese-Odo/Ilaje Federal Constituency*)

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the oil-producing Ayetoro Community is not just a major revenue source of the nation, but a phenomenal historical and cultural settlement along the coastal stretch of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State;

*Also noted* that Ayetoro Community and its environs account for 5.4 per cent of the 60,000 Barrel Per Day (BPD) of Ondo State's crude oil production output amounting to about 3.7 per cent of Nigeria's total oil production ranking Ondo State 5th among Nigeria's oil-producing states as captured by the NDDC law;

*Disturbed* that devastating sea incursions and ocean surges have been the albatross of the Ayetoro community for over two decades destroying properties and displacement of indigenes, thus disrupting the oil-exploration activities owing to varied reactions by indigenes of the area;

*Worried* that the surge has become an annual occurrence and an alarming rate that successive administrations in Ondo State appear and overwhelmed, thus helpless;

*Also disturbed* that the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2004 attempted to stem the slide by awarding the contract for the construction of a shoreline protective wall designed with a tube technology in Ayetoro to Gallet Nigeria Limited at an original contract sum of ₦6.4 billion, of which 25 per cent was reportedly paid, but the contract was revoked in 2009 for alleged lack of capacity and re-awarded to Dredging Atlantic Limited at an undisclosed cost and sixteen years after the contract was first awarded, there is nothing to show any intervention by the government;

*Concerned* that owing to this pitiable level of no action by the mobilised contractor(s), a particular surge that happened towards the end of the year 2020 reportedly caused the displacement of nearly 2,000 people, 13 deaths and the destruction of over 200 homes;

*Also concerned* that the situation has generated tension in the oil-producing communities as restive youths have reportedly commenced mobilising themselves to disrupt the lawful activities of oil-producing companies, thereby creating a state of unease and seeming insecurity;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide temporary relief materials to cushion the immediate impact of the ravaging sea incursion on the latest victims;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission and Ecological Fund to investigate the failure of the performance of the ₦6.5 billion shoreline protection contract awarded by the Niger Delta Development Commission in 2006 to find an alternative solution where necessary, to stem the dangerous side and report in four (4) weeks;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 190/10/2023**).

**16. Need to Intervene in the Flooding and Resultant Gully Erosion in Amekpu, Elu, Nkporo, Ihechiowa, Abam, Aru and Ututu Communities of Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency, Abia State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that various communities in Abia State's Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency, including Amekpu, Elu, Nkporo, Ihechiowa, Abam, Arochukwu, and Ututu, are experiencing an increase in floods and gully erosion. The topsoil, which is rich in nutrients essential for agriculture, has been washed away by erosion with farmers' livelihood harmed by the loss of fertile land, thus leading a decline in agricultural productivity;

*Concerned* that flooding and erosion have caused the foundations of buildings, roads, bridges, and other infrastructure to collapse and deteriorate, posing a hazard to the safety of the population and impeding transportation and economic activity in the area;

*Also concerned* that community of Ebem Ohafia, has lost homes, and clans have been displaced, including the traditional monarch palace, which has withstood erosion damage since it was built in 1921;

*Worried* that the relentless impact of these natural disasters has resulted in significant hardships for Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency, threatening the lives and overall well-being of the Community;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide immediate relief materials to ameliorate the sufferings of the people;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence rehabilitation to prevent further loss of lives and properties;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to increase Ecological Funding to address the menace of erosion in Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency of Abia State, which has become a threat to the lives and properties of the affected Communities;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Environment, Ecological Funds, Niger Delta Ministry, Niger Delta Development Commission and Emergency Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa — Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*)

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 191/10/2023).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Environment, Ecological Funds, Niger Delta Ministry, Niger Delta Development Commission and Emergency Disaster Preparedness, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*

**17. Need to Rehabilitate the Kirikiri Federal Road in Ajeromi - Ifelodun Federal Constituency of Lagos State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the 6.4km road between the entry to Boundary Roundabout in Ajeromi-Ifelodun Federal Constituency and exit at the Kirikiri Roundabout of Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency is a federal road that has been constructed in the last 30 years and has remained unattended to since then;

*Also notes* that the road is in deplorable condition and has only witnessed minor repairs as carried out by FERMA about five years ago;

*Further notes* that the maintenance carried out by Federal Road Maintenance Agencies collapsed a few months;

*Aware* that the road is a major link to Lagos Island, Mile 2 express road, and Kirikiri Prison yard;

*Cognizant* of the need to rehabilitate the Boundary Market, Orodu Junction 30 Square Meter, Boundary Bridge Ayeke Bus Stop T Junction 15 Square Meter, Amore Junction before Tolu Medical 4.5 Square Meter, Bale Road Hausa Line Junction 10 Square Meter, Bale Road Green Land Bus Stop 25 Square Meter, Bale Road Gbadesere Junction 9 Square Meter, Kirikiri Road Akere Health Center 24 Square Meter, Kirikiri Road Odus Bus Stop 46 Square Meter, Kirikiri Road 1st Benue Bus Stop 4 Square Meter, Kirikiri Road Goddey Bus Stop 10 Square Meter, Kirikiri Road People Bus Stop 40 Square Meter, Kirikiri Road Formula Two Bus Stop Failed Drainage of 80 Parameter in both wings, Kirikiri Road Berger Suya Bus Stop 1500 Square Meter, Kirikiri Road Berger Bridge immediately after descending 600 Square Meter;

*Worried* that the commercial and social life of the people has been seriously affected due to continuous neglect of the road;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to carry out comprehensive rehabilitation of the road;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to undergo proper rehabilitation of the entire drainage and ensure it is motorable all year round; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure implementation (*Hon. Kalejaiye Adeboye Paul — Ajeromi-Ifelodun Federal Constituency*)

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 192/10/2023).**

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

**18. Need to Re-construct Abandoned Portions of the East - West Road Connecting Major Communities in Bayelsa State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* the avoidable disaster which befell the indigenes and residents of Bayelsa State and other parts of the country, especially the coastal regions during last year's flood;

*Also notes* the devastation and total neglect of critical portions of the EastWest Road, specifically at Iheke in Ahoada East LGA of Rivers State, Aven in Patani LGA and Umeh in Isoko South LGA, both of Delta State, which connects Bayelsa State to Rivers and Delta States specifically and the country in general;

*Concerned* that these portions of roads collapsed during last year's ravaging flood which destroyed lives, properties and critical infrastructures, especially around the coastal areas of the country;

*Worried* that portions of the roads, some of which were temporarily rehabilitated by the Federal Government and the Bayelsa State Government are getting worse by the day, crippling economic activities in the areas, as the people can no longer go to major markets, farms or engage in other economic activities to boost their sources of income and livelihood, thereby leading to the loss of millions of Naira daily;

*Also worried* that the current state of the roads will not have the capacity to withstand the impact of the impending flood as predicted by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) in its 2023 Seasonal Climate Prediction (SCP);

*Cognizant* that if nothing is not done to urgently address this menace, the indigenes and residents of Bayelsa State who already feel a deep sense of dejection would be cut off from the rest of the country through the East-west Road;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Niger Delta to, immediately commence concrete rehabilitation work on the affected sites and also construct bridges to aid in the control of erosion;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Ministry, and Environment to visit the various sites to, assess the state of the roads and make further recommendations within three weeks of being so constituted (*Hon. Oforji Oboku — Yenogoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*)

**Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (i) immediately after the words “Environment”, *insert* the word “Works” (*Hon. Ojema Ojotu — Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* the avoidable disaster which befell the indigenes and residents of Bayelsa State and other parts of the country, especially the coastal regions during last year's flood;

*Also noted* the devastation and total neglect of critical portions of the East West Road, specifically at Iheke in Ahoada East LGA of Rivers State, Aven in Patani LGA and Umeh in Isoko South LGA, both of Delta State, which connects Bayelsa State to Rivers and Delta States specifically and the country in general;

*Concerned* that these portions of roads collapsed during last year's ravaging flood which destroyed lives, properties and critical infrastructures, especially around the coastal areas of the country;

*Worried* that portions of the roads, some of which were temporarily rehabilitated by the Federal Government and the Bayelsa State Government are getting worse by the day, crippling economic activities in the areas, as the people can no longer go to major markets, farms or engage in other economic activities to boost their sources of income and livelihood, thereby leading to the loss of millions of Naira daily;

*Also worried* that the current state of the roads will not have the capacity to withstand the impact of the impending flood as predicted by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) in its 2023 Seasonal Climate Prediction (SCP);

*Cognizant* that if nothing is not done to urgently address this menace, the indigenes and residents of Bayelsa State who already feel a deep sense of dejection would be cut off from the rest of the country through the East-west Road;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Niger Delta to, immediately commence concrete rehabilitation work on the affected sites and also construct bridges to aid in the control of erosion;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Ministry, Environment, and Works to visit the various sites to, assess the state of the roads and make further recommendations within three weeks of being so constituted (**HR. 193/10/2023**).

**19. Unlawful Road Blockage, Extortion and Harassment by Security Personnel on Lagos Agbara Badagry-Seme Highway**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* the Report of the Punch Newspapers of November 2022 that there are over 100 roadblocks on the Lagos-Agbara-Badagry-Seme Expressway, spanning approximately 46.2 kilometers;

*Also notes* that the roadblocks and checkpoints were originally intended to curb smuggling activities and provide security along the expressway and around the Seme Border;

*Worried* that security agents have been subjecting unsuspecting members of the public to traumatic experiences in their attempts to extort their hard-earned money;

*Aware* of orders by the leaders of the various law enforcement agencies in Badagry to remove all Illegal checkpoints mounted on the road but unfortunately, the orders have not been effectively implemented;

*Concerned* that the military's harassment and extortion along the Lagos-Agbara-Badagry-Seme route will discourage tourists from visiting the area, which is a well-known tourist destination;

*Also aware* of instances where law enforcement agencies assaulting, harassing and in some cases, brutally killing residents of Badagry which may degenerate in conflict between uniformed men and residents, if these legalities continue;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Nigeria Customs Service to beef up security on the Lagos-Agbara-Badagry-Seme Highway and ensure implementation of laws, circulars, and guidelines for mounting checkpoints to ensure the removal of Illegal roadblocks and prevent the unlawful mounting of new checkpoints;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Customs and Excise, and Armed Force to identify the root causes of illegal checkpoints in border communities and proffer solution to the illegal activities of the security agencies;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Whingan Sesi Oluwaseun — Badagry Federal Constituency*) .

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (ii), line 2, immediately after the words “communities”, insert the word “across the country” (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibiya/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* the Report of the Punch Newspapers of November 2022 that there are over 100 roadblocks on the Lagos-Agbara-Badagry-Seme Expressway, spanning approximately 46.2 kilometers;

*Also noted* that the roadblocks and checkpoints were originally intended to curb smuggling activities and provide security along the expressway and around the Seme Border;

*Worried* that security agents have been subjecting unsuspecting members of the public to traumatic experiences in their attempts to extort their hard-earned money;

*Aware* of orders by the leaders of the various law enforcement agencies in Badagry to remove all Illegal checkpoints mounted on the road but unfortunately, the orders have not been effectively implemented;

*Concerned* that the military's harassment and extortion along the Lagos-Agbara-Badagry-Seme route will discourage tourists from visiting the area, which is a well-known tourist destination;

*Also aware* of instances where law enforcement agencies assaulting, harassing and in some cases, brutally killing residents of Badagry which may degenerate in conflict between uniformed men and residents, if these legalities continue;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Nigeria Customs Service to beef up security on the Lagos-Agbara-Badagry-Seme Highway and ensure implementation of laws, circulars, and guidelines for mounting checkpoints to ensure the removal of Illegal roadblocks and prevent the unlawful mounting of new checkpoints;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Customs and Excise, and Armed Force to identify the root causes of Illegal checkpoints in border communities, across the country and proffer solution to the illegal activities of the security agencies;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 194/10/2023**).

**20. Administration of Nigeria's Pension Fund Assets**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Retirement Saving Accounts (RSAs) are the lifeline that pensioners rely upon to cater to their needs upon retirement;

*Concerned* that most pensioners are unable to access their retirement funds despite complying with the requirements of the contributory pension scheme, and neither the National Pension Commission (PenCom) nor the Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) have been able to reassure them of prompt payment of their entitlements;

*Aware* that the pension fund assets which PenCom regulates, being the proceeds of the contributory pension scheme and returns on investment, stood at more than 15,500,000,000,000.00 (Fifteen Trillion, Five Hundred Billion Naira) as at the close of the first quarter of 2023, hence there is no justification for retirees not to have access to their RSA;

*Worried* that critical stakeholders have expressed concern that 65% of the pension funds (N100 Trillion Naira) loaned to the Federal Government is an investment which exposes the contributors to unnecessary volatility as the Federal Government may fail to pay back the loan in due time;

*Also worried* that being unable to access their pension has caused untold hardship to the retirees as they are unable to afford even basic necessities;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the National Pension Commission (PenCom) to ensure the immediate release of funds for the payment of pension funds to all retirees;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Pensions to:
  - (a) investigate the status of the pension fund assets of over ₦15,500,000,000,000.00 (Fifteen Trillion, Five Hundred Billion Naira) with a view to ensuring that the ₦100 trillion loaned to the Federal Government from pension funds is duly recovered and modalities are put in place to hinder a collapse of the pension scheme; and
  - (b) scrutinize the failure of Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) in fulfilling its obligations to retirees as regards access to their retirement savings (*Hon. Aliyu Bappa Misau — Misau/Dambam Federal Constituency*) .

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (ii) immediately after the words “ensuring that the”, *leave out* the figures “₦100 trillion” and *insert* the figures and word “₦10 trillion” (*Hon. Jese Okey-Joe Onuakalusi — Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that Retirement Saving Accounts (RSAs) are the lifeline that pensioners rely upon to cater to their needs upon retirement;

*Concerned* that most pensioners are unable to access their retirement funds despite complying with the requirements of the contributory pension scheme, and neither the National Pension Commission (PenCom) nor the Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) have been able to reassure them of prompt payment of their entitlements;



*Aware* that the pension fund assets which PenCom regulates, being the proceeds of the contributory pension scheme and returns on investment, stood at more than ₦15,500,000,000,000.00 (Fifteen Trillion, Five Hundred Billion Naira) as at the close of the first quarter of 2023, hence there is no justification for retirees not to have access to their RSA;

*Worried* that critical stakeholders have expressed concern that 65% of the pension funds (₦100 Trillion) loaned to the Federal Government is an investment which exposes the contributors to unnecessary volatility as the Federal Government may fail to pay back the loan in due time;

*Also worried* that being unable to access their pension has caused untold hardship to the retirees as they are unable to afford even basic necessities;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the National Pension Commission (PenCom) to ensure the immediate release of funds for the payment of pension funds to all retirees;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Pensions to:
  - (a) investigate the status of the pension fund assets of over ₦15,500,000,000,000.00 (Fifteen Trillion, Five Hundred Billion Naira) with a view to ensuring that the ₦10 trillion loaned to the Federal Government from pension funds is duly recovered and modalities are put in place to hinder a collapse of the pension scheme; and
  - (b) scrutinize the failure of Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) in fulfilling its obligations to retirees as regards access to their retirement savings (**HR. 195/10/2023**).

**21. Need to Restore Electricity Supply to Affected Communities in Ogun Waterside Local Government Area of Ogun State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that one of the major agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration is to generate, transmit, and distribute sufficient, affordable electricity to the people of Nigeria in order to enlighten their lives, homes and their very dream;

*Also notes* that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed the Electricity Act into law as part of the fulfilment of his campaign promises to improve electricity access to the rural, unserved, underserved, per-urban and urban areas;

*Aware* that electricity is one of the fundamental dividends of democracy and the aim of sustainable development goals is to thrive economy of a nation for the betterment of her citizens;

*Also aware* that Nigerians and Industries have been suffering with the epileptic electricity supply and total power outage;

*Concerned* that among such Nigerians with power outages are the people of some communities in the Ogun Waterside local government area of Ogun state (Ibiade, Iwopm, Ayila, Abigi, Efire, Ilusin, Ayede, Olojumeta, Lomiro, Imakun Orni, Ode Orni, Oni, Iukogbe, Igele, Irokun and others);

*Worried* that the communities have been in total blackout for almost two (2) decades and nothing has been done as intervention by the government for the people of these communities;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the matter and direct the National Rural Electrification Agency (NREA) to restore the communities to the National grid, ensure strict compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Joseph Folorunsho Adegbesan — Ijebu North/Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside Federal Constituency*) .

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that one of the major agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration is to generate, transmit, and distribute sufficient, affordable electricity to the people of Nigeria in order to enlighten their lives, homes and their very dream;

*Also noted* that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed the Electricity Act into law as part of the fulfilment of his campaign promises to improve electricity access to the rural, unserved underserved, per-urban and urban areas;

*Aware* that electricity is one of the fundamental dividends of democracy and the aim of sustainable development goals is to thrive economy of a nation for the betterment of her citizens;

*Also aware* that Nigerians and Industries have been suffering with the epileptic electricity supply and total power outage;

*Concerned* that among such Nigerians with power outages are the people of some communities in the Ogun Waterside local government area of Ogun state (Ibiade, Iwopm, Ayila, Abigi, Efire, Ilusin, Ayede, Olojumeta, Lomiro, Imakun Orni, Ode Orni, Oni, lukogbe, Igele, Irokun and others);

*Worried* that the communities have been in total blackout for almost two (2) decades and nothing has been done as intervention by the government for the people of these communities;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the matter and direct the National Rural Electrification Agency (NREA) to restore the communities to the National grid, ensure strict compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 196/10/2023**).

**22. Reconstruction of the Calabar - Oban Ekan International Road leading to the Republic of Cameroon**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Section 14 (20) (b), Chapter II 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 the Government;

*Also notes* that on 10 October, 2002, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that the proprietorship of the Bakassi Peninsula belongs to Cameroon, due to an agreement between the governments of Nigeria and Cameroon during the civil war, the economic impact of that ruling is still being felt today;

*Acknowledged* that Cross River State is an Agrarian State, producing cocoa, banana, plantain, palm produce, yam, cassava, rice, coco-yam, maize, robber, and groundnut among other cash crops;

*Aware* that having a military base along the Calabar-Oban Ekan international road leading to the Republic of Cameroon with no good road, collapsed bridge, or wooden coverts to retreat in case of emergency is an embarrassment to the Nigeria government;

*Recognise* the economic implication of agricultural produce that always go to waste, the Lafarge cement factory located in the same area and other business that are losing money due to the terrible nature of the road has cost Cross River and the Federal Government of Nigeria a huge economic lost;

*Also recognise* the importance of migration and its consequences, especially for the promotion of regional integration and economic cooperation in Africa;

*Determined* to overcome the challenges of security of life and properties, the security of the military personnel, the threat to national security, issues regarding irregular migration, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and related issues;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Works to make provision for Reconstruction of the Calabar-Oba-Ekan International Road in the 2024 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Emil Inyang — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency and 7 Others*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 197/10/2023).**

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

**23. Call to Investigate the Abandonment of Rehabilitation Work on the Umuahia-Ikwuano-Ikot Ekpene Expressway**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Umuahia -Ikwuano-Ikot Ekpene road is a major highway linking the South-East to the South-South states of Akwa Ibom, Cross River, and down to Cameroon;

*Also notes* that the Umuahia-Ikwuano-Ikot Ekpene road axis poor road network has halted Socio-economic activities in the Southeast geo-political zone;

*Aware* of the economic significance of the roads to the abutting states of the Southeast, South-South, Western and Northern States of the Federation for the movement of essential goods and services;

*Also aware* that the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing in 2019 awarded the contract for the rehabilitation of Umuahia-Ikwuano-Ikot Ekpene road to Messrs Hartland Company Ltd, howbeit, no meaningful milestones have been achieved;

*Worried* that effort by patriotic stakeholders in Ikwuano LGA to ascertain the real cause of the delay has proved abortive as both the Federal Ministry of Works and the Nigerian national Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) (funding agency) have not been forthcoming;

*Convinced* that the rehabilitation of the Umuahia-Ikwuano-Ikot Ekpene Expressway will bring relief to millions of commuters and propel the economic development of the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) mandate the Committee on Works to investigate and determine cause of abandonment of the Umuahia-Ikwuano-Ikot Ekpene Expressway and unattended to for almost the lifespan of the contract, provide a permanent and sustainable solution and report back within 2 weeks for further legislative action; and
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Obi Aguocha — Ikwuano/Umuahia North/Umuahia South Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 198/10/2023).**

*Motion referred to the Committee on Works, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*

**24. Call on the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) to cover Vulnerable Nigerians**

*Ordered deferred by leave of the House.*

**25. Need for Promissory Notes Programs and Bond Issuance for Settlement of Judgement Debt**

*Ordered deferred by leave of the House.*

**26. Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down items 14 and 15 on the Order Paper in another legislative day” (Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

**27. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 4 October, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Minority Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 3.24 p.m.*

**Benjamin Okezie Kalu**  
*Deputy Speaker*