



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 7 November, 2023

1. The House met at 11.13 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 2 November, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcements**
 - (i) ***Oaths of Allegiance and Membership:***
A Member-elect, John Moenwui Dafaan (*Mikang/Qua'an Pan/Shendam Federal Constituency*), took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.
 - (ii) ***Anambra State Caucus Leader:***
Mr Speaker read a communication from the Hon. George Ibezimako Ozodinobi (*Deputy Minority Whip*), announced Hon. Victor Afam Ogene as the Anambra State Caucus Leader;
 - (iii) ***Appointment of Acting Deputy Clerk (Administration), House of Representatives:***
Mr Speaker announcing the appointment of Mrs Kehinde Florence A. as the Acting Deputy Clerk (*Administration*), House of Representatives, with effect from 2 November, 2023.
5. **Petitions**
 - (i) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi (*Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise Orun Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Rex Feremondi and one other, Members of the Green Mind Farmers Cooperative Society Limited, on an alleged placement of Lien on the account of their Cooperative Society by the Management of the United Bank of Africa, Lagos Island Branch;

- (b) M. C. Chamber (Legal practitioners), on the persistent and unjustified increase in tariffs by the Multichoice Nigeria Limited;
- (c) Otunba Oyewole Badmus, on alleged Stamp Duty evasion by Agencies of Government;
- (ii) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Paul Ekpo (*Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Coalition Committee of Petroleum Products Marketing Company (PPMC)/M.T.J.S. Amazing Oil Impacted Ijaw, Itsekiri and Urhobo Ethnic Nationalities of Delta State, on an alleged unresolved oil spill of 6 June, 2009;
 - (b) Association of Rivers and Akwa Ibom Oil Producing States of Niger Delta Region, on alleged wrongful award of Pipeline Surveillance contracts by the Management of the NNPC Limited;
- (iii) A petition from A. O. Ojekudo & Co., on alleged unlawful and malicious seizure of the vessel, MV Cecelia by the Joint Task Force (DPDS), Navy, was presented and laid by Hon. Uduak Odudoh Alphonsus (*Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Yunana Elisha Maida, on alleged vanderlisation of travelling bag and his degrading treatment by Ethiopian Airline, was presented and laid by Hon. Obed Paul Shehu (*Kaltungo/Shongom Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from Fidelis Uti (No: 370293), on his alleged dismissal from the service of the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) A petition from Adedeji Ayodele Joy and Sixty-Nine others, on alleged injustice over their unpaid salaries, was presented and laid by Hon. Anthony Adebayo (*Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*);
- (vii) A petition from Alex Onweazu Oditah, on his unlawful retirement from service of the Nigerian Correctional Service, was presented and laid by Hon. Ngozi Okolie (*Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Military Intervention and Rescue of Missing Farmers in Shebe, Karkut and Bulabulin in Jere and Mafa Local Government Areas, Borno State:*

Hon. Satomi Alhaji Ahmed (*Jere 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.

Military Intervention and Rescue of Missing Farmers in Shebe, Karkut and Bulabulin in Jere and Mafa Local Government Areas, Borno State:

The House:

Notes that on Saturday, 4 November, 2023, heavily armed Boko Haram terrorists attacked Zabarmari farmers working in their rice fields in the villages of Koshebe, Karkut and BULABULIN of Jere Mafa Local Government Area killing several of them;

Also notes that the attack was by terrorists less than 20 kilometers from Maiduguri, the Borno State capital;

Worried by the dynamic and strategy deployed by these terrorists who were on motorcycles, divided themselves into three groups, attacked with cutlasses and knives to stab and butcher the victims in a most gruesome manner;

Concerned that currently Security forces and Civilian Joint Task Force in the Nigerian North East of Borno recovered 9 dead bodies, while the search to find more missing people still continues;

Alarmed that in spite of the terrorists attack of Saturday, 4 November, 2023, and the ongoing search and rescue operations, another attack and massacre of about 50 persons took place in the night of Sunday, 5 November, 2023;

Also alarmed that if urgent and drastic steps are not taken, the area may be overrun by terrorists;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army to immediately mobilize troops to the affected areas to neutralize the terrorists rescue the victims and restore normalcy in the area;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency, North East Development Commission and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to as a matter of urgency mobilize humanitarian and relief materials to the affected villages;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Satomi Alhaji Ahmed — Jere Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Saturday, 4 November, 2023, heavily armed Boko Haram terrorists attacked Zabarmari farmers working in their rice fields in the villages of Koshebe, Karkut and BULABULIN of Jere Mafa Local Government Area killing several of them;

Also noted that the attack was by terrorists less than 20 kilometers from Maiduguri, the Borno State capital;

Worried by the dynamic and strategy deployed by these terrorists who were on motorcycles, divided themselves into three groups, attacked with cutlasses and knives to stab and butcher the victims in a most gruesome manner;

Concerned that currently Security forces and Civilian Joint Task Force in the Nigerian North East of Borno recovered 9 dead bodies, while the search to find more missing people still continues;

Alarmed that in spite of the terrorists attack of Saturday, 4 November, 2023, and the ongoing search and rescue operations, another attack and massacre of about 50 persons took place in the night of Sunday, 5 November, 2023;

Also alarmed that if urgent and drastic steps are not taken, the area may be overrun by terrorists;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army to immediately mobilize troops to the affected areas to neutralize the terrorists rescue the victims and restore normalcy in the area;
 - (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency, North East Development Commission and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to as a matter of urgency mobilize humanitarian and relief materials to the affected villages;
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 329/11/2023**).
- (ii) ***Terrorist Attacks on some Villages in Geidam Local Government Area, Yobe State:***
Hon. Lawan Shettima Ali (*Busari/Geidam/Yunusari 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.

Terrorist Attack on Some Villages in Geidam Local Government Area, Yobe State:

The House:

Notes that on Monday, 30 and Tuesday, 31 October, 2023, a group of terrorist riding on about 15 motor bikes with sophisticated weapons attacked in Nguro Kayaiya, a community in Kusr Damakarwa Ward, between Gumsa and Kusr towns of Geidam Local Government Area, Yobe State, killed 16 males and burnt homes, vehicles and tricycles;

Also notes that on Tuesday, 31 October, 2023, in the afternoon, villagers from neighboring Mallam Kelluri of Gumsa village unit numbering about 14 on a tricycle ran over explosive device planted by the terrorist around the village which exploded and killed 12 persons while 4 who were taken to hospital;

Further notes that Yobe State Government through the State Emergency Management Agency sent provided both foods and non-food items to the affected victims;

Worried that several villages including Nguro Kayaiya Village, Jororo Village in Geidam LGA, Garin Bulama Garaiye, in Yunusari Local Government were burnt down;

Also worried that this is one of several attacks in Geidam and Yunusari LGAs within the spate of 13 years;

Concerned that the recent attack has caused serious humanitarian crisis as citizens the town fleeing to bushes, nearby villages, and some other Local Governments as they were made homeless;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army and other Security Agencies to fortify security in Geidam and Yunusari LGA to secure the communities, in order to forestall future attacks;
- (ii) also urge the North East Development Commission (NEDC) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide succour and relief materials to the victims of the affected communities;
- (iii) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased (*Hon. Lawan Shettima Ali — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Monday, 30 and Tuesday, 31 October, 2023, a group of terrorist riding on about 15 motor bikes with sophisticated weapons attacked in Nguro Kayaiya, a community in Kusr Damakarwa Ward, between Gumsa and Kusr towns of Geidam Local Government Area, Yobe State, killed 16 males and burnt homes, vehicles and tricycles;

Also noted that on Tuesday, 31 October, 2023, in the afternoon, villagers from neighboring Mallam Kelluri of Gumsa village unit numbering about 14 on a tricycle ran over explosive device planted by the terrorist around the village which exploded and killed 12 persons while 4 who were taken to hospital;

Further noted that Yobe State Government through the State Emergency Management Agency sent provided both foods and non-food items to the affected victims;

Worried that several villages including Nguro Kayaiya Village, Jororo Village in Geidam LGA, Garin Bulama Garaiye, in Yunusari Local Government were burnt down;

Also worried that this is one of several attacks in Geidam and Yunusari LGAs within the spate of 13 years;

Concerned that the recent attack has caused serious humanitarian crisis as citizens the town fleeing to bushes, nearby villages, and some other Local Governments as they were made homeless;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army and other Security Agencies to fortify security in Geidam and Yunusari LGA to secure the communities, in order to forestall future attacks;
- (ii) also urge the North East Development Commission (NEDC) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide succour and relief materials to the victims of the affected communities;

- (iii) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased (**HR. 330/11/2023**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

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. Afam Victor Ogene — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (iii) **Persistent Crisis in Ogwuaniocha Community in Ogbaru Federal Constituency, Anambra from the Jaws of Violent Criminal Gangs:**

Hon. Afam Victor Ogene (*Ogbaru 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.

Persistent Crisis in Ogwuaniocha Community in Ogbaru Federal Constituency, Anambra from the Jaws of Violent Criminal Gangs:

The House:

Notes that the security of lives and property is the primary purpose of government;

Also notes that Ogwuaniocha in Ogbaru Federal Constituency, Anambra State, an oil bearing community (contributing over 20,000 barrels of crude oil per day), which earned the State its oil producing status is under serious resurgence of crisis, by groups of violent attackers;

Alarmed that violent gangs have set up camps in and around Ogwuaniocha Community, sacked the residents, kidnapped the traditional ruler (Igwe), killed and maimed many, unchallenged, in a manner that constitutes desecration of the traditional institution and erosion of our cultural values;

Worried that there is a resurgence of crisis in the community and its environs last week, leading to abduction of over 20 people who are yet to be accounted for, a trend that has kept recurring since November, 2021, without meaningful steps aimed at rescuing the Igwe by the Anambra State Government, or explore any administrative measures to finding solution to the problem;

Concerned that the displaced people of Ogwuaniocha are going through difficult times without any provision for shelter nor relief materials hence they have no Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps;

Also concerned that while oil production goes on seamlessly in Ogwuaniocha, the people have been forced to stay off their community for two years now — since Monday, November 15, 2021 with no farming activity, no school for the children, no business activities as a result of the occupation of the community by the criminal gangs, who have relocated from other parts of the state and set up camps in and around the community;

Resolves to:

- (i) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to unravel the remote and persisting cause of the crisis and come up with suggestions on how to resolve same;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Ministry on Humanitarian Services and Poverty Alleviation to set up an IDP camp for the people and provide them with relief materials (*Hon. Afam Victor Ogene — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the security of lives and property is the primary purpose of government;

Also noted that Ogwuaniocha in Ogbaru Federal Constituency, Anambra State, an oil bearing community (contributing over 20,000 barrels of crude oil per day), which earned the State its oil producing status is under serious resurgence of crisis, by groups of violent attackers;

Alarmed that violent gangs have set up camps in and around Ogwuaniocha Community, sacked the residents, kidnapped the traditional ruler (Igwe), killed and maimed many, unchallenged, in a manner that constitutes desecration of the traditional institution and erosion of our cultural values;

Worried that there is a resurgence of crisis in the community and its environs last week, leading to abduction of over 20 people who are yet to be accounted for, a trend that has kept recurring since November, 2021, without meaningful steps aimed at rescuing the Igwe by the Anambra State Government, or explore any administrative measures to finding solution to the problem;

Concerned that the displaced people of Ogwuaniocha are going through difficult times without any provision for shelter nor relief materials hence they have no Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps;

Also concerned that while oil production goes on seamlessly in Ogwuaniocha, the people have been forced to stay off their community for two years now — since Monday, November 15, 2021 with no farming activity, no school for the children, no business activities as a result of the occupation of the community by the criminal gangs, who have relocated from other parts of the state and set up camps in and around the community;

Resolved to:

- (i) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to unravel the remote and persisting cause of the crisis and come up with suggestions on how to resolve same;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Ministry on Humanitarian Services and Poverty Alleviation to set up an IDP camp for the people and provide them with relief materials (**HR. 331/11/2023**).
- (iv) ***Loss of Lives as a Result of the Collapsed Bridge in Delta State:***
Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani 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.

Loss of Lives as a Result of the Collapsed Bridge in Delta State:

The House:

Notes the recent and tragic collapse of a bridge that occurred on Wednesday, 18 October, 2023, severely affecting the vital link between Asaba-Ase and Uzere communities, which serve as the connecting point between Ndokwa East and Isoko South Local Government Areas of Delta State to Bayelsa and Rivers States;

Also notes that this sudden bridge collapse is due to the natural disaster of tidal erosion, which resulted in the tragic loss of two lives and now pose a significant threat to the lives and well-being of the affected communities;

Further notes that this disaster has effectively severed the essential access between these communities, rendering them isolated and incapable of accessing vital services, including healthcare, market places, education, and economic opportunities;

Concerned that without urgent intervention, the affected communities will continue to suffer from the consequences of this bridge collapse, which has disrupted their daily lives and livelihoods;

Worried about the hardships faced by the residents of Asaba-Ase and the connected communities, who have been left stranded on either side of the road due to the unavailability of a functional bridge;

Cognizant of the fact that the bridge and roads on both sides were initially constructed under the Federal Government in the 80s by Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, and therefore, it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to ensure the rehabilitation and construction of this critical bridge infrastructure;

Recognizes the critical need for swift action and financial allocation to address this emergency situation and reinstate the bridge, thereby restoring the essential link between these communities;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the departed souls, and expresses heartfelt condolences to their families and the affected communities;
- (ii) call on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently intervene and allocate the necessary resources to address the collapse by constructing a 300 meter bridge to serve as a crucial link between Asaba-Ase and Uzere communities in Delta State;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, FERMA, NDDC, and Works to ensure Compliance (*Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 332/11/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, FERMA, NDDC, and Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Central Bank of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.841).
- (2) Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.842).
- (3) National Root Crop Production Institute, Samaru Kataf, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.843).
- (4) Infectious Diseases Centre, Kwoi, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.844).
- (5) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Port Harcourt, Rivers State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.845).
- (6) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Kano Municipal, Kano State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.846).
- (7) Currency Offences Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.847).
- (8) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 Act (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.848).
- (9) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.849).
- (10) Federal Universities of Agriculture Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.850).
- (11) National Emergency Management Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.851).
- (12) National Directorate of Employment Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.852).
- (13) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Ugwuaji, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.853).
- (14) Banks and other Financial Institutions Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.854).
- (15) Counterfeit Currency (Special Provision) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.855).
- (16) Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.856).
- (17) Niger Delta Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.857).
- (18) Federal University of Science and Technology, Ajingi, Kano State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.858).
- (19) Corporate Social Responsibility Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.859).
- (20) Federal Capital Territory Border States Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.860).

8. A Bill for an Act to Regulate Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 242) — Second Reading

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres and Establish Federal Medical Centre Kwale, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 680) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres and Establish Federal Medical Centre Kwale, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 680) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Health Institutions.

10. Rescission of the Resolution on the Deplorable Living Conditions of Officers of the Nigeria Police Force (HR.291/10/2023)

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on Thursday, 26 October 2023 it was resolved among others to urge the Ministry of Interior and Police Affairs to liaise with the Bureau of Public Enterprise to immediately assess the value of all Federal Owned Barracks across the country and announce a public offering for same;

Also notes that the motion is strictly addressing the plight of the Police Barracks nationwide;

Alarm at the warning sign raised in the first prayer of the motion;

Resolves to:

Rescind the resolution in Prayer (i) of the motion and insert thereof:

“mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to visit the Police Barracks nationwide to assess the level of infrastructural decay of the Barracks to boost the morals of the men and officers of the Nigeria Police Force” (Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

11. Report of the 9th House of Representatives Special Committee on Security

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria faces numerous security challenges, including insurgency, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, communal clashes, cybercrime, and general criminal activities affecting all regions and citizens' lives;

Also notes that the 9th Assembly House of Representatives established a Special Committee on National Security on March 17, 2021, to address the severe deterioration in the nation's security. The committee comprised experienced lawmakers and experts in the field who worked closely with relevant security agencies to analyze the root causes of these challenges and propose actionable solutions, chaired by the Former Speaker, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila;

Aware that the Committee's findings highlighted Nigeria's security challenges, including non-kinetic strategies, overlapping security institutions, professionalism issues, state-based militias, regional collaboration difficulties, ethnic and religious tensions, poor border control, corruption, and environmental issues;

Concerned that critical and urgent interventions, as indicated by the committee's summit findings, are essential to address these security issues, prevent further escalation of violence and instability in the region, and safeguard the lives and assets of the communities;

Resolves to:

- (i) revisit the report of the 9th House of Representatives Special Committee on National Security, review the document, and consider its recommendations;
- (ii) adopt the report and take the necessary actions for the full implementation of its recommendations by the Executive;
- (iii) engage the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) in the redevelopment of the nation's security measures and make it an integral part of the solution; and
- (iv) review the welfare of members of the armed forces and paramilitary organizations who risk their lives to keep the nation safe by improving their incentives (*Hon. Abdussamad Dasuki — Kebbe/Tambuwa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (ii), *leave out* the word “adopt”, and *insert* the word “reconsider” (*Hon. Adedeji Stanley Olajide — Ibadan North West/Ibadan South West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v), as follows:
“lay the Report for adoption by the 10th Assembly for the full implementation of the recommendations therein by the Executive” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
“mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to revisit the Report of 9th House of Representatives Special Committee on National Security for onward implementation” (*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 that Nigeria faces numerous security challenges, including insurgency, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, communal clashes, cybercrime, and general criminal activities affecting all regions and citizens' lives;

Also noted that the 9th Assembly House of Representatives established a Special Committee on National Security on March 17, 2021, to address the severe deterioration in the nation's security. The committee comprised experienced lawmakers and experts in the field who worked closely with relevant security agencies to analyze the root causes of these challenges and propose actionable solutions, chaired by the Former Speaker, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila;

Aware that the Committee's findings highlighted Nigeria's security challenges, including non-kinetic strategies, overlapping security institutions, professionalism issues, state-based militias, regional collaboration difficulties, ethnic and religious tensions, poor border control, corruption, and environmental issues;

Concerned that critical and urgent interventions, as indicated by the committee's summit findings, are essential to address these security issues, prevent further escalation of violence and instability in the region, and safeguard the lives and assets of the communities;

Resolved to:

- (i) revisit the report of the 9th House of Representatives Special Committee on National Security, review the document, and consider its recommendations;
- (ii) reconsider the report and take the necessary actions for the full implementation of its recommendations by the Executive;
- (iii) engage the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) in the redevelopment of the nation's security measures and make it an integral part of the solution; and
- (iv) review the welfare of members of the armed forces and paramilitary organizations who risk their lives to keep the nation safe by improving their incentives;
- (v) lay the Report for adoption by the 10th Assembly for the full implementation of the recommendations therein by the Executive;
- (vi) mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to revisit the Report of 9th House of Representatives Special Committee on National Security for onward implementation (HR. 333/11/2023).

12. Call on the Federal Capital Territory to commence Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy to House Owners located within the Mass Housing Scheme Estate

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that legislative powers with regards to the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja are invested in the National Assembly by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Aware that the Federal Capital Territory Administration is a government organ in Nigeria, headed by the Minister who "shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be delegated to him from time to time by the President" as provided in Section 302 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Also Aware that in a bid to provide adequate and affordable housing to contribute to bridging the housing gap in Nigeria, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory in the year 2000 initiated the Mass Housing Scheme project to provide affordable housing through a public-private partnership (PPP) policy arrangement;

Also notes that the Mass Housing Scheme initiated by successive Federal Capital Territory Administrations has given rise to the development of smart estates in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), which has boosted the Internal Revenue Generation of the Federal Capital Territory Administration over the years;

Recognises the importance of a Certificate of Occupancy to property owners as a question of legitimacy and compliance, safety and habitability, and tenant and owner protection.

Observes that a Certificate of Occupancy is essential for land owners as it establishes the legitimacy and compliance of the property, verifies its safety and habitability, aids in securing insurance and financing, enhances property value and marketability, and provides protection for both the landlords and tenants;

Concerned that property owners within these Mass Housing Scheme Estates have no Certificate of Occupancy issued to them as a result of one common Certificate of Occupancy issued in favour of the estate, which negates the principles of tenant-owner protection;

Worried that prospective tenants or buyers of such properties and property owners within such estates may end up in potential disputes, liability issues, endless legal complications, and increased risks due to the absence of a Certificate of Occupancy;

Cognizant that approximately 3,000 housing estates in the Federal Capital Territory issued with a Certificate of Occupancy can significantly improve the marketability and value of properties, especially through internal revenue generation;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to liaise with the Federal Capital Territory Administration to explore and resolve all the issues surrounding the lack of issuance of certificates of occupancy to property owners within housing estates and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 334/11/2023).

Motion referred to the Committee on Federal Capital Territory, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

13. Strengthening the Public Complaints Commission (PCC)

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Public Complaints Commission (PCC) was established under the Public Complaints Commission Act, Cap. P37, Laws of the Federation, 2004 to address public complaints about government and company administrative actions, ensure accountability and transparency, and curb arbitrary power use;

Also notes that the Commission investigates and entertains public servant maltreatment, with matters about the National Assembly, National Council of State, Ministers, Armed Forces, and Police Force exempted;

Concerned that the Public Complaint Commission (PCC), with thirty-six States and Headquarters in Abuja, is facing financial challenges to effectively fulfil its mandate, according to its Chief Commissioner, Hon. Abimbola Ayo Yusuf in an interview with TVC Television on July 23, 2021;

Aware that the Federal Government, in its meeting with the Commission on December 23, 2022, made commitments to assist in providing tools and infrastructure, noting the importance of the Commission in ensuring accountability and addressing public grievances.

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Government to prioritize the provision of adequate funding for the Public Complaints Commission to enable carry out its mandate effectively as provided by law (Hon. Kolawole Davidson Akinlayo — Ido/Osi/Moba/Ilejemeje Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Public Complaints Commission (PCC) was established under the Public Complaints Commission Act, Cap. P 37, Laws of the Federation, 2004 to address public complaints about government and company administrative actions, ensure accountability and transparency, and curb arbitrary power use;

Also noted that the Commission investigates and entertains public servant maltreatment, with matters about the National Assembly, National Council of State, Ministers, Armed Forces, and Police Force exempted;

Concerned that the Public Complaint Commission (PCC), with thirty-six States and Headquarters in Abuja, is facing financial challenges to effectively fulfil its mandate, according to its Chief Commissioner, Hon. Abimbola Ayo Yusuf in an interview with TVC Television on July 23, 2021;

Aware that the Federal Government, in its meeting with the Commission on December 23, 2022, made commitments to assist in providing tools and infrastructure, noting the importance of the Commission in ensuring accountability and addressing public grievances.

Resolved to:

Urge the Federal Government to prioritize the provision of adequate funding for the Public Complaints Commission to enable carry out its mandate effectively as provided by law (**HR. 335/11/2023**).

14. Need to Beef up Security Formation in Kastina Ala, Ukum and Logo Local Government Areas, Benue State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

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

Informed that on July 8, 2023, at Akpuuna1, in Mbazun Ward, Mbaterem Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State, twenty-four people were killed by armed men suspected to be bandits;

Also informed that the killing and kidnapping of persons at Chito village in Azendeshi Ward Torov of Ukum Local Government Area have continued unabated, fourteen people have been confirmed killed since the unprovoked attacks started, the most recent was the kidnapping of Mr Matthew Aboh (Commissioner of Information, Culture, and Creativity, Benue State), barely a week after he was sworn in. He just regained his freedom after nine days;

Disturbed that the insecurity situation in Benue State, especially in Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency, has assumed frightening dimensions as people can no longer go about their daily activities without fear of being killed, raped, or kidnapped, especially in Kyado, Zaki Biam, Ugba, Yooyo, and others;

Worried that due to these acts of killing, raping, and kidnapping, farming, which is the mainstay of the residents of the affected communities, has been disrupted, families have been displaced, the socio-economic life of the said communities is grounded, and the population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the constituency has increased exponentially;

Cognizant of the fact that beefing up security in the Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency of Benue State will go a long way in forestalling and eradicating criminal activities in the area;

Convinced that setting up of a Police Mobile Force and/or a military base within Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency of Benue State shall go a long way in deterring perpetrators of crimes and criminality from the Federal Constituency and Benue State in general;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to revive and complete the abandoned Mobile Police Force Unit at Mbazar in Tombo Ward of Logo Local Government Area of Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency of Benue State and operationalize it;
- (ii) also urge the Chief of Defence Staff to establish Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency of Benue State;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to provide relief materials to the residents displaced; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Defence, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance(*Hon. Solomon Wombo — Katsina Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

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

Informed that on July 8, 2023, at Akpuuna1, in Mbazun Ward, Mbaterem Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State, twenty-four people were killed by armed men suspected to be bandits;

Also informed that the killing and kidnapping of persons at Chito village in Azendeshi Ward Torov of Ukum Local Government Area have continued unabated, fourteen people have been confirmed killed since the unprovoked attacks started, the most recent was the kidnapping of Mr Matthew Aboh

(Commissioner of Information, Culture, and Creativity, Benue State), barely a week after he was sworn in. He just regained his freedom after nine days;

Disturbed that the insecurity situation in Benue State, especially in Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency, has assumed frightening dimensions as people can no longer go about their daily activities without fear of being killed, raped, or kidnapped, especially in Kyado, Zaki Biam, Ugba, Yooyo, and others;

Worried that due to these acts of killing, raping, and kidnapping, farming, which is the mainstay of the residents of the affected communities, has been disrupted, families have been displaced, the socio-economic life of the said communities is grounded, and the population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the constituency has increased exponentially;

Cognizant of the fact that beefing up security in the Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency of Benue State will go a long way in forestalling and eradicating criminal activities in the area;

Convinced that setting up of a Police Mobile Force and/or a military base within Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency of Benue State shall go a long way in deterring perpetrators of crimes and criminality from the Federal Constituency and Benue State in general;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to revive and complete the abandoned Mobile Police Force Unit at Mbazar in Tombo Ward of Logo Local Government Area of Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency of Benue State and operationalize it;
- (ii) also urge the Chief of Defence Staff to establish Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency of Benue State;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to provide relief materials to the residents displaced; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Defence, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 336/11/2023**).

15. Rehabilitation of Gombe-Dukku-Darazo Road and Upgrade to Trunk "A" Road:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Gombe-Dukku-Darazo road, constructed in the late 1980s, links Gombe and Bauchi States in north-eastern Nigeria, connecting the region to neighbouring Cameroon, Chad, and Niger Republics and providing a strategic link between north-eastern Nigeria and neighbouring Cameroon,

Chad, and Niger Republics. The absence of this road necessitates a longer and more time-consuming alternative route.

Aware that from 1989 to 1999, the road became a hub for criminal activities like armed robbery, kidnapping, abduction, and banditry due to poor road conditions as well as accidents, resulting in numerous victims.

Concerned that in 2001, the Federal Government awarded a road rehabilitation contract to improve the commuters' experience and facilitate goods and agricultural movement, but most work was substandard, especially along the Dukku-Gombe axis.

Worried that the deplorable condition of the road has negatively impacted economic activities, well-being, and transportation of agricultural produce, making access to tertiary healthcare services in neighbouring Bauchi, Kano, Plateau, and other states challenging.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to, as a matter of urgency, rehabilitate the Gombe-Dukku-Darazo Road and upgrade the road to trunk "A" in the list of Federal Roads in Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abdullahi El-Rasheed — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“urge the Federal Government to upgrade bus culvert between Gombe Kwamu and Kwam Bejude to 4 Suan Bridges” (*Hon. Inuwa Garba — Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Gombe-Dukku-Darazo road, constructed in the late 1980s, links Gombe and Bauchi States in north-eastern Nigeria, connecting the region to neighbouring Cameroon, Chad, and Niger Republics and providing a strategic link between north-eastern Nigeria and neighbouring Cameroon,

Chad, and Niger Republics. The absence of this road necessitates a longer and more time-consuming alternative route.

Aware that from 1989 to 1999, the road became a hub for criminal activities like armed robbery, kidnapping, abduction, and banditry due to poor road conditions as well as accidents, resulting in numerous victims.

Concerned that in 2001, the Federal Government awarded a road rehabilitation contract to improve the commuters' experience and facilitate goods and agricultural movement, but most work was substandard, especially along the Dukku-Gombe axis.

Worried that the deplorable condition of the road has negatively impacted economic activities, well-being, and transportation of agricultural produce, making access to tertiary healthcare services in neighbouring Bauchi, Kano, Plateau, and other states challenging.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to, as a matter of urgency, rehabilitate the Gombe-Dukku-Darazo Road and upgrade the road to trunk "A" in the list of Federal Roads in Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to upgrade bus culvert between Gombe Kwamu and Kwam Bejude to 4 Suan Bridges (**HR. 337/11/2023**).

16. Need to Investigate the Alleged Abuse of Due Process in the Award of Oil Pipeline Rehabilitation and Surveillance Contracts by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL)

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. Deplorable State of Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway from Abule Egba to Sango

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the current condition of the Lagos-Abeokuta expressway poses severe safety hazards for road users, due to potholes, uneven surfaces, and inadequate road markings have contributed to accidents and loss of lives;

Also notes that the deplorable state of the Lagos-Abeokuta expressway from Abule Egba to Sango, which has become a death trap for motorists and commuters;

Concerned that the Impact on Livelihoods of people living along the Lagos-Abeokuta expressway have been seriously affected as limited accessibility due to road conditions hampers daily activities, including access to schools, healthcare facilities, markets, and employment opportunities. Swift repair is crucial to restore normalcy, enhance economic opportunities, and improve the quality of life for residents;

Also concerned that the deplorable state of the road has resulted in severe traffic congestion, causing significant delays and disruptions in the movement of goods and people. This has negatively impacted economic activities, increased transportation costs, and hindered the growth of businesses along the route. Urgent repair and rehabilitation are necessary to alleviate traffic congestion and promote economic development in the region;

Worried that the state of the road creates a negative impression of the region and deters potential visitors and tourists because is one of the major routes connecting two significant states, which serves as a gateway to the Lagos and Ogun States;

Also worried that the poor road conditions hinder tourism potential, impede regional development, and adversely affect the local economy;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, in collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders, to allocate adequate resources, including funding and manpower, for the timely repair, reconstruction, and comprehensive rehabilitation of the Lagos-Abeokuta expressway and include it in the 2024 budget estimate;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to carry out rehabilitation on the failed portion of the Road;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Benjamin Adeyemi Olabinjo — Ifako/Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 338/11/2023).

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

18. Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Abandoned Project on Abak-Ekparakwa-Ete-Ikot Abasi Federal Road in Akwa Ibom State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the main stretch of the Abak-Ekparakwa-Ete-Ikot Abasi Federal road, which was Reconstruction by CCECC has been abandoned;

Also notes that CCECC having been contracted and mobilized has overlaid 27 kilometres from Abak to Ibekwe Akpan Nya 1.4 kilometres in Ikot Ntot in Mkpato Enin Local Government Area and 20 kilometres in Ikot Abasi Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State;

Further notes that despite millions of naira budgeted and approved in the 2021 Appropriation Bill, the maintenance and repairs of Abak-Ekparakwa-Ete-Ikot Abasi Federal road remain uncompleted, deplorable state;

Worried that being the main federal road connecting Akwa Ibom State to the East-West road and equally granting direct access to Rivers State, the abandonment of the CCECC contract has caused untold hardship for residents, making it difficult to access major markets in neighbouring states except through Abia State;

Also worried that given the increment in transportation fare orchestrated by the recent removal of fuel subsidy, there is a need to implement measures to ameliorate the hardship of the citizenry, and fixing of roads for one to undertake the closest to his or her destination remains an integral part of such measures;

Concerned about increased transportation fares due to fuel subsidy removal, there is a need to implement measures to alleviate the hardship of the citizens such as reconstructing the road;

Also concerned that ever since the contractors left the site the road has been in a deplorable state, thereby making the road a dead trap, leading to auto crashes, loss of lives, goods, and services worth millions of Naira;

Observes that residents of Abak, Mkpato Enin, and Ikot Abasi Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State have been disconnected from their economic engagements due to lack of road access to transport farm produce;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to immediately release funds for CCECC to complete the Rehabilitation and Maintenance of the Abandoned Project on the Abak-Ekparakwa-Ete-Ikot Abasi Federal Road, Akwa Ibom State without delay;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to intervene and perform remedial work to repair the cut portion of the road, allowing access to Ikot Abasi and Mkpato Enin; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Uduak Odudoh Alphonsus — Ikot Abasi/Mkpato Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (iii) immediately after the word “Works”, insert the words “and Appropriations” (*Hon. Chris Nkwonta — Ukwato East/Ukwato West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the main stretch of the Abak-Ekparakwa-Ete-Ikot Abasi Federal road, which was Reconstruction by CCECC has been abandoned;

Also noted that CCECC having been contracted and mobilized has overlaid 27 kilometres from Abak to Ibekwe Akpan Nya 1.4 kilometres in Ikot Ntot in Mkpat Enin Local Government Area and 20 kilometres in Ikot Abasi Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State;

Further noted that despite millions of naira budgeted and approved in the 2021 Appropriation Bill, the maintenance and repairs of Abak-Ekparakwa-Ete-Ikot Abasi Federal road remain uncompleted, deplorable state;

Worried that being the main federal road connecting Akwa Ibom State to the East-West road and equally granting direct access to Rivers State, the abandonment of the CCECC contract has caused untold hardship for residents, making it difficult to access major markets in neighbouring states except through Abia State;

Also worried that given the increment in transportation fare orchestrated by the recent removal of fuel subsidy, there is a need to implement measures to ameliorate the hardship of the citizenry, and fixing of roads for one to undertake the closest to his or her destination remains an integral part of such measures;

Concerned about increased transportation fares due to fuel subsidy removal, there is a need to implement measures to alleviate the hardship of the citizens such as reconstructing the road;

Also concerned that ever since the contractors left the site the road has been in a deplorable state, thereby making the road a dead trap, leading to auto crashes, loss of lives, goods, and services worth millions of Naira;

Observed that residents of Abak, Mkpat Enin, and Ikot Abasi Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State have been disconnected from their economic engagements due to lack of road access to transport farm produce;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to immediately release funds for CCECC to complete the Rehabilitation and Maintenance of the Abandoned Project on the Abak-Ekparakwa-Ete-Ikot Abasi Federal Road, Akwa Ibom State without delay;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to intervene and perform remedial work to repair the cut portion of the road, allowing access to Ikot Abasi and Mkpat Enin; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on works, and Appropriations to ensure compliance (**HR. 339/11/2023**).

19. Consideration of Reports

- (i) *A Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Economists of Nigerian Empowered with Responsibility to Determine and Regulate the Standards of Knowledge, skills and Qualification of Persons seeking to become Professional Economists in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 224) (Committee of the Whole):*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Economists of Nigerian Empowered with Responsibility to Determine and Regulate the Standards of Knowledge, skills and Qualification of Persons seeking to become Professional Economists in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 224)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMISTS
OF NIGERIAN EMPOWERED WITH RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE AND
REGULATE THE STANDARDS OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND QUALIFICATION
OF PERSONS SEEKING TO BECOME PROFESSIONAL ECONOMISTS
IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 224)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMISTS OF NIGERIA

Clause 1: Establishment of the Institute of Economists of Nigeria.

- (1) There is established the Institute of Economists of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the Institute").
 - (2) The Institute —
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, to be kept in such custody as the Council may direct;
- Cap. L5, LFN, 2004.**
- (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (c) may, subject to the Land Use Act, acquire, hold and dispose of any property, movable or immovable.
- (3) The Institute shall —
 - (a) determine the skills and knowledge to be attained by members seeking to become professional economists and raising those standards as determined by the Institute Council;
 - (b) secure in accordance with the provisions of this Bill, the establishment and maintenance of a register of members of the Institute and publication of persons contained in it;
 - (c) organise and conduct professional examinations for intending members of the Institute;
 - (d) maintain and uphold the ethics of members of the Institute;
 - (e) regulate professional members of the Institute; and
 - (f) collaborate with other reputable examination bodies and educational institutions.

- (4) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, members admitted into the Institute shall be enrolled in the categories of —
 - (a) Fellow — FIEN;
 - (b) Executive — EIEN;
 - (c) Full — FUIEN;
 - (d) Associate — AIEN;
 - (e) Corporate — CIEN;
 - (f) Graduate — GIEN;
 - (g) Honorary Fellow Membership Award — HFIEN;
 - (h) Affiliate membership; and
 - (i) Student.
- (5) A person accorded any of the above status by the Institute under this Bill, shall be entitled to the use of the appropriate designatory letters as approved by the Council.
- (6) A person registered under this Bill shall be enrolled as —
 - (a) a Fellow (FIEN) if he is —
 - (i) a founding member of the Institute with sound academic and relevant professional qualification and experiences, or
 - (ii) an economist, academician or non-academician, whose advisory roles on economic matters had contributed tremendously to the nation's economic growth and development, or
 - (iii) an individual in relevant and related disciplines who has offered development services of special nature to the nation or who has noticeably worked relentlessly and dynamically to enhance the professional image of the Institute directly or indirectly, or
 - (iv) a holder of the full membership of the Institute with at least 10 years practical experience;
 - (b) an Executive (EIEN) if he —
 - (i) has a special award to top government functionaries and captains of industries, both nationally and internationally, or
 - (ii) is an economics discipline graduate with a minimum of 10 years post qualification practical experience in relevant fields, or
 - (iii) is a professor or doctorate degree (PhD) holder in economics and other economics-based disciplines, or

- (iv) is an officer on a directorship level in the National Economic Commission, the Ministry responsible for finance and other ministries, departments and agencies of government at both the States and Federal levels, or
 - (v) is a holder of the Institute's Associate membership with at least four years practical experience subsequent to his Associate membership enlistment;
- (c) a Full (FIEN) if he —
 - (i) is a graduate of economics with minimum of 10 years post qualification practical experience in relevant areas, or
 - (ii) is a professor or PhD holder in economics and economics-based discipline, or
 - (iii) is an officer on a directorship level in the National Economic Commission and Ministry responsible for finance, or
 - (iv) is a holder of the Institute's Associate membership with at least four years practical experience subsequent to his Associate membership enlistment, or
 - (v) possesses other relevant qualifications acceptable and considered suitable and relevant by the Council; or
- (d) Associate (AIEN) if he is a candidate who after being exempted from some papers of the Institute's professional examination, have satisfactorily passed all required and mandated examinations as approved by the Institute.
- (e) Corporate (CMIEN) if it is a corporate entity or institution specialised in relevant area which intends to be identified with the noble cause of the Institute with the objective of creating a knowledge and ideas-oriented forum for the benefit of the Institute's members and employees of such institution;
- (f) Graduate Membership (GIEN) if he —
 - (i) is a university graduate of economics or related disciplines, or
 - (ii) is a holder of higher academic qualification, masters of sciences (MSc), master of business administration (MBA), PhD, in other specialised fields but with bias in economic matters, such as members of other professional bodies such as ICAN, ANAN, ACPAN, CIBN, CIMA, ICCAN, or
 - (iii) is an individual with cognate practical experience in economic matters or related discipline but whose education qualification is below a university degree but who may be considered solely at the discretion of the Council;
- (g) Honorary Fellow Membership Award (HFIEN) if it is an award to

men and women who have distinguished themselves in services to the nation and to the growth and development of the Institute;

- (h) Affiliate Membership if it is an institution or corporate entity interested in mutual beneficial cooperation or relationship with the Institute; and
- (i) Student Membership, if he possesses —
 - (i) a West African School Certificate (WASC) with five credits including economics, mathematics and English language, or
 - (ii) the National Examination Council Certificate (NECO) with five credits including economics, mathematics and English language, or
 - (iii) the ordinary national diploma of Nigeria or overseas accredited polytechnic in any field, or
 - (iv) the higher national diploma of Nigeria or overseas accredited polytechnic in any field, or
 - (v) a first, second or third degree of Nigeria or overseas accredited university, or
 - (vi) National Certificate of Education (NCE), or
 - (vii) any other professional certificate or diploma recognized by the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 1 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART II — ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF THE
PRESIDENT, 1ST AND 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT AND THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE INSTITUTE

Clause 2: Establishment of the National Executive Council of the Institute election or Appointment of the President, 1st and 2nd Vice-President.

- (1) There is established the National Executive Council of the Institute (in this Bill referred to as "the Council").
- (2) The Council shall —
 - (a) consist of 10 elective and five non-elective members; and
 - (b) be headed by the President, who shall report directly to the Governing Board.
- (3) There shall be a President of the Institute who shall be —
 - (a) a professional economist practitioner;
 - (b) a Fellow of the Institute;
 - (c) up to date in his financial obligations to the Institute; and

- (d) Chairman of the Council.
- (4) There shall be the 1st Vice-President of the Institute who shall be —
 - (a) a professional economist practitioner;
 - (b) a Fellow of the Institute;
 - (c) up to date in his financial obligations to the Institute; and
 - (d) a member of the Council.
- (5) There shall be a 2nd Vice-President of the Institute who shall be —
 - (a) a professional economist practitioner;
 - (b) a Fellow of the Institute;
 - (c) up to date in his financial obligations to the Institute; and
 - (d) a member of the Council.
- (6) The President, 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Institute.
- (7) The other seven *ex-officio* members shall be elected or appointed at the annual general meeting of the Institute.
- (8) The five non-elective members shall —
 - (a) be the immediate past President of the Institute;
 - (b) be the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of the Institute whose position shall not be less than a Director; and
 - (c) have one representative each from the —
 - (i) Federal Ministry responsible for education, and
 - (ii) Federal Ministry responsible for finance,
- (9) The President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President shall hold office for a term of one year in the first instance from the date of election and may be eligible for re-election for a second and third terms and no more.
- (10) The President shall be the Chairman of the National Executive Council and shall direct the meetings and affairs of the Council in consultation with other Council members and the Governing Board of the Institute.

First Schedule.

- (11) In the absence of the President, the 1st Vice-President or 2nd Vice-President as the case may be, shall stand in for him to perform the functions of his office.
- (12) In the case of death or permanent incapacitation of the President or any of the Vice Presidents, the Governing Board shall appoint a fit and proper person as replacement for the remainder of their term.

- (13) The supplementary provisions relating to the Council shall be as set out in the First Schedule to this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 2 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART III — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE INSTITUTE

Clause 3: Establishment of the Governing Board of the Institute.

- (1) There is established the Governing Board of the Institute (in this Bill referred to as "the Board").
- (2) The Governing Board —
- (a) shall consist of 11 members, out of which at least three and not more than five shall be permanent members and founders of the Institute;
 - (b) shall appoint the Chairman from amongst themselves whose tenure of office shall be two years, renewable for another term of two years and no more;
 - (c) shall have the power of general control, subject to the provisions of this Bill, over the Institute; and
 - (d) may, at its discretion, appoint as patrons and matrons to the Institute, men and women of integrity and clout in the society whose roles shall be advisory, conflict resolution and resource mobilisation for the Institute.
- (3) The tenure of office of non-permanent members of the Governing Board shall be for a single term of two years and no more (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 3 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 4: Establishment of the Board of Fellows and appointment of patrons and matrons.

- (1) There is established a Board of Fellows for the Institute which shall consist of all Fellows of the Institute.
- (2) The Board of Fellows shall —
- (a) act as the "Parliament" of the Institute and as an advisory body to the Council;
 - (b) be the organ to recommend to the Council those to be conferred with the Fellowship of the Institute; and
 - (c) recommend to the Governing Board, deserving members of the public who have distinguished themselves in the various calling to be appointed and inducted as patrons or matrons of the Institute and the functions of the body of patrons and matrons shall be advisory to the Board and Council of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 4 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IV — APPOINTMENT OF THE REGISTRAR
AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTE

Clause 5: Appointment and duties of the Registrar, other officers and the preparation of the register.

- (1) The Council shall appoint a fit and proper person to be the Registrar for the purpose of this Bill, and such other persons as the Institute may deem necessary to appoint.
- (2) The Registrar shall be the Secretary to the Council and the chief executive officer of the Institute.
- (3) The Registrar shall prepare and maintain, in accordance with the rules made by the Council, a register of the names, addresses, approved qualifications and other relevant particulars, as may be specified in the rules, of the persons who are entitled to be enrolled as Fellows, Executive, Full, Associates, Corporate, Graduate, Honorary Fellow Membership Award, Affiliate Membership and Students or registered as professional economist practitioners who apply to be so registered in accordance with this Bill;
- (4) The register shall consist of seven parts of which the —
 - (a) first part shall be in respect of Fellows;
 - (b) second part shall be in respect of Executives;
 - (c) third part shall be in respect of Full;
 - (d) fourth part shall be in respect of Associates;
 - (e) fifth part shall be in respect of Corporate;
 - (f) sixth part shall be in respect of Graduates;
 - (g) seventh part shall be in respect of Honorary Fellow Membership Award;
 - (h) eight part shall be in respect of Fellow Membership Award; and
 - (i) ninth part shall be in respect of Students.
- (5) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Council may make rules with respect to the form and keeping of the register and the making of the entries in it, and in particular —
 - (a) regulate the making of applications for enrolment, registration as the case may be, and providing for the particulars to be produced in support of applications;
 - (b) provide for notification to the Registrar, by the person to whom any registered particulars relate, of any change in those particulars;
 - (c) authorise an enrolled or registered person to have any qualification which is, in relation to the relevant division of the profession, either an approved qualification or any accepted qualification for the

purposes of this Bill, registered in relation to his name in addition to or as he may elect in substitution for any other qualifications so registered;

- (d) specify the fees, including any annual subscription to be paid to the Institute in respect of the entry of names on the register;
 - (e) authorise the Registrar to refuse to enter a name on the register until any fee specified for the entry has been fully paid; and
 - (f) specify anything not specified under the provisions of this section.
- (6) Rules made for the purposes of subsection (5) (e) shall not come into effect until confirmed at a special meeting of the Council or at the next annual general meeting of the Institute.
- (7) The Registrar shall —
- (a) correct in accordance with the Council's directions, any entry in the register which the Council directs him to correct as being in the Council's opinion an entry which was incorrectly made;
 - (b) make any necessary alteration in the particulars of the registered persons;
 - (c) record the names of members of the Institute who are in default for more than one year in the payment of the annual subscriptions and to take such action in relation to it, including removal of the names of such persons from the register, as the Council under this Bill may direct or require.
- (8) If the Registrar —
- (a) sends by post to any registered person a registered letter addressed to that person at his address on the register enquiring whether the registered particulars relating to him are correct and receives no reply to the letter within a period of three months from the date of posting or a period to be determined by Council having regards to the circumstances, and
 - (b) upon the expiration of the period sends in the like manner to the person in question a second similar letter and receives no reply to that letter within one month from the date of posting or a period to be determined by Council having regards to the circumstances,

the Registrar may remove the particulars relating to the person from the register and the Council may direct the Registrar to restore to the appropriate part of the register any particulars removed under this subsection (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 5 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 6: Publication of the register and list of evidential value.

- (1) The Registrar shall —
- (a) cause the register to be printed, published, and put on sale to

members of the public not later than 12 months from the commencement of this Bill;

- (b) in each year after that in which the register is first published under paragraph (a), cause to be printed, published and put on sale, either a corrected edition of the register or list of alterations made to the register since it was last printed; and
 - (c) cause a print of each edition of the register and of each list of corrections to be deposited at the principal office of the Institute, and the Council shall keep the register and lists so deposited and make same available at all reasonable times for inspection by members of the public.
- (2) A document purporting to be a print of an edition of the register published under this section by authority of the Registrar or document purporting to be prints of an edition of the register so published and of a list of corrections to the last edition so published shall, without prejudice to any other mode of proof, be admissible in any proceedings as evidence that any person specified in the document, or the documents read together, as being registered, was so registered at the date or the edition or the last corrections, as the case may be and that any person not so specified was not so registered.
- (3) Where in accordance with subsection (2) a person is, in any proceeding, shown to have been, or not to have been registered at a particular date, he shall, unless the contrary is proved, be taken for the purposes of those proceedings as having at all material times continued to be, or not to be so registered (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 6 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 7: Registration of training and development practitioners.

- (1) Subject to section 1 (6) of this Bill and rules made under it, a person shall be entitled to be enrolled or registered as a member of the Institute if he —
 - (a) possesses the relevant qualifications as may be approved from time to time and is successful in all the prescribed examinations;
 - (b) qualifies for enrolment as a member in any of the categories specified in this Bill; or
 - (c) holds a qualification granted outside Nigeria for the time being accepted by the Institute and satisfy the Council that he has had sufficient practical experience as a professional economist practitioner.
- (2) An applicant for registration shall, in addition to evidence of qualification, satisfy the Council that he —
 - (a) is of a good character and high integrity;
 - (b) has consistently been in practice as a professional economist practitioner for a minimum of two years; and
 - (c) has not been convicted in Nigeria or elsewhere of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or gross misconduct.

- (3) The Council may publish particulars of qualifications criteria for the time being accepted by it for registration.
- (4) The Council may in its discretion reject a qualification produced in respect of an application for registration under this section or direct that the application be renewed within such period as may be specified in the direction.
- (5) Any entry directed to be made in the register under subsection (4) shall show that registration is provisional and no entry so made shall be converted to full registration without the consent of the Council in writing in that behalf.
- (6) A member who passed the Institute's final examination or has attained Associate grade of the Institute shall, with effect from the date of coming into effect of this Bill and in accordance with his relevant special career path, continue to progress to any grade as determined by the prevailing laws of the Federal Government of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 7 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 8: Approval of qualifications.

- (1) The Council may approve any institution for the purposes of this Bill and may for those purposes, approve —
 - (a) any course of training at an approved institution which is intended for persons who, are seeking to become or are already members of the Institute and which the Council considers is designed to confer on persons completing it, sufficient knowledge and skill for admission to the Institute; or
 - (b) any qualification which, as a result of an examination taken in conjunction with a course of training approved by the Council under this section, is granted to candidates attaining a standard at the examination indicating, in the opinion of the Council, that the candidate has sufficient knowledge and skill to practice as a professional economist practitioner.
- (2) The Council may, if it deems it fit, withdraw any approval given under this section in respect of any course, qualification or institution, but before withdrawing such an approval, the Council shall —
 - (a) give notice that it proposes to withdraw such approval to each person in Nigeria appearing to the Council to be a person by whom the course is conducted or the qualification is granted or the institution is controlled;
 - (b) afford such person an opportunity of making to the Council representations with regards to the proposal; and
 - (c) take into consideration any representation made in respect of the proposal under paragraph (b).
- (3) With regards to any period during which the approval of the Council under this section for a course, qualification or institution is withdrawn, the course, qualification or institution shall not be treated as approved under this section

but the withdrawal of such approval shall not prejudice the registration or eligibility for registration of any person who, by virtue of the approval, was registered or eligible for registration, either unconditionally or subject to his obtaining a certificate or experience, immediately before approval was withdrawn.

- (4) The giving or withdrawal of an approval under this section shall have effect from such date of the execution of the instrument and the Council shall —
- (a) publish, as soon as possible, a copy of every such instrument in the Federal Government Gazette; and
 - (b) not later than seven days before its publication, send a copy of the instrument to the Minister of Education (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 8 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 9: Supervision, instruction and examination leading to approval.

- (1) The members of the Council shall keep themselves informed of the nature of —
- (a) the instruction given at approved institutions to persons attending approved courses of training; and
 - (b) the examinations as a result of which approved qualifications are granted, and for the purposes of discharging that duty, the Council may appoint a committee, either from among its own members or otherwise, to visit approved institutions or to attend such examinations.
- (2) The committee appointed under subsection (1) shall report to the Council on —
- (a) the adequacy of the instruction given to persons attending approved courses of training at institutions visited by it;
 - (b) the adequacy of the examinations attended by it; and
 - (c) any matters relating to the institutions or examinations which the Council may, either generally or in a particular case, request it to report:
- Provided always that no member of the committee shall interfere with the giving of any instruction or holding of any examination.
- (3) On receipt of a report made under this section, the Council may, if it deems fit, and shall, if so, required by the Institute, send a copy of the report to the person appearing to the Council to be in charge of the institution or responsible for the examinations to which the report relates, requesting that person to make observations on the report to the Council within such period as may be specified in the request, not less than one month from the date of the request (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 9 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 10: Establishment of the INEN Professional School of Economics.

- (1) There is established an affiliate school of the Institute to be known as INEN Professional School of Economics.
- (2) The School is charged with responsibility of training students and members of the Institute and awarding qualifying certificates into the relevant membership categories of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 10 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART V — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**Clause 11: Management of the Institute's Fund.**

- (1) The Institute shall establish and maintain a Fund, the management and control of which shall be vested in the Council and into which shall be paid —
 - (a) all monies received by the Council under this Bill, including fees, levies, grants, investitures, donations and honorariums; and
 - (b) such money as may be provided by donors, benefactors or other external sources.
- (2) There shall be paid out of the Fund of the Institute —
 - (a) all reasonable expenditures incurred by the Council in the performance of its functions under this Bill; and
 - (b) the remuneration, allowances of the Registrar and other staff of the Institute.
- (3) The Council may invest its Fund in any security such as treasury bills, shares or any other security in Nigeria approved by it.
- (4) The Council may borrow money for the purposes of the Institute and any interest payable on such money borrowed shall be paid out of the Fund.
- (5) The Council shall keep proper accounts on behalf of the Institute in respect of each financial year, and shall cause the account to be audited by a qualified and licensed auditor appointed by it.
- (6) The Auditor appointed for the purpose of this section shall not be a member of the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 11 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VI — PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE**Clause 12: Establishment of the Disciplinary Tribunal and the Investigating Panel.**

- (1) There is established the Institute of Economists of Nigeria Disciplinary Tribunal (in this Bill referred to as "the Tribunal") charged with the responsibility of considering and determining all cases referred to it by the Investigating Panel established under subsection (3).
- (2) The Tribunal shall consist of the Chairman of the Council and six other members of the Institute appointed by the Council.

- (3) There is established the Institute of Economists of Nigeria Investigating Panel (in this Bill referred to as "the Panel") charged with the duty of —
- (a) conducting preliminary investigation into any matter or complaint where it is alleged that a member has misbehaved or compromised the ethics of the profession in his capacity as a member of the Institute;
 - (b) deciding whether a member shall, for any reason, be the subject of proceedings before the Tribunal; and

Second Schedule.

- (c) deciding whether the matter or complaint may be referred to the Tribunal.
- (4) The Panel shall be appointed by the Council and shall consist of two members of the Council and five registered members of the Institute who are not members of the Council.
- (5) The provisions of the Second Schedule to this Bill shall, so far as applicable to the Tribunal and the Panel respectively, have effect with respect to those bodies.
- (6) The Council may make rules consistent with this Bill as to acts which constitute professional misconduct (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 12 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 13: Penalties for professional misconduct.

- (1) Where —
- (a) a member is adjudged by the Tribunal to be guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect,
 - (b) a member is convicted, by any court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria or elsewhere for an offence, whether or not punishable with imprisonment, which in the opinion of the Tribunal is incompatible with the status of a member of the Institute, or
 - (c) the Tribunal is satisfied that the name of any person has been fraudulently registered,
- the Tribunal may, if it deems fit, give a direction reprimanding that person or ordering the Registrar to strike his name off the relevant part of the register.
- (2) The Tribunal may, if it deems fit, defer or further defer its decision as to the giving of a direction under subsection (1) until its subsequent meeting but —
- (a) a decision shall not be deferred under this subsection for periods exceeding two years in the aggregates; and
 - (b) no person shall be a member of the Tribunal for the purposes of reaching a decision which has been deferred or further deferred, unless he was present as a member of the Tribunal when the decision was deferred.

- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1) (b), a person shall not be treated as convicted pending the final determination of an appeal, if any, against the conviction;
- (4) When the Tribunal gives a direction under subsection (1), it shall cause notice of the direction to be served on the person affected.
- (5) The person affected may, at any time within 90 days of service on him of notice of direction appeal to the Tribunal which may review its decision.
- (6) A person whose name is removed from the register on the direction of the Tribunal under subsection (1) (c) shall not be entitled to be registered again, except under a direction in that behalf given by the Tribunal on the application of that person to the Council, and a direction under this section for the removal of a person's name from the register may prohibit an application under this section by that person until the expiration of such period when the date of the direction, and where he has duly made such an application, on the date of his last application, as may be specified in the direction (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 13 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 14: Application of acts to enroll.

- (1) The Council may make rules for —
 - (a) the training of suitable persons as professional economist practitioner;
 - (b) the supervision and regulation of the engagement, of such person;
 - (c) the registration and licensing of persons to practice or be employed as professional economist;
 - (d) fees to be paid by members of the Institute; and
 - (e) restrictions on the right to practice when all prescribed conditions have not been met.
- (2) The Council may also make rules prescribing the amount and due dates for payment of the annual subscription and for such purposes, different amounts may be prescribed by the rules according to membership grades of Fellows, Executive, Full, Associates, Corporate, Graduates, Honorary Fellow Membership Award, Affiliate Membership and Students.
- (3) Rules when made shall, if the Chairman of the Council so directs, be published and circulated to members.
- (4) The Council may confer Honorary Membership or Merit Award of the Institute on persons or bodies considered worthy of such honour on terms and conditions prescribed by it (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 14 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 15: Provision for library.

The Institute shall —

- (a) provide and maintain a library comprising books and publications for the advancement of the knowledge in professional economist's training, office information technology and management, and such other books and publications as it may deem necessary for the purpose; and
- (b) encourage research into professional economist practice and allied matters to the extent that the Council may consider necessary (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 15 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VI — REGULATIONS, RULES AND OFFENCES

Clause 16: Regulations.

- (1) Any regulation made for the purposes of this Bill shall be published in the Federal Government Gazette immediately it is made.
- (2) Rules made for the purposes of this Bill shall be subject to confirmation by the Council at any meeting of the Institute summoned for that purpose and if annulled, cease to have effect on the day after the date of annulment but, without prejudice to anything already done under the rule.
- (3) On the commencement of this Bill —
 - (a) any person who for the purpose of procuring his registration as a member of the Institute knowingly or recklessly makes any statement, tender any document which he knows or ought to reasonably know to be false commits an offence and is not eligible for registration, and if registered shall be delisted;
 - (b) any person who, not being a member of the Institute holds himself out as a member and practices as a registered member of Institute in expectation of reward or financial consideration commits an offence and is liable on conviction to be punished under the relevant laws of impersonation in Nigeria; or
 - (c) any person, being a member who holds himself out by taking any name, title, addition or description implying that he is a member of the Institute, other than the grade upon which he is enrolled or registered under this Bill, commits an offence and is liable to face the Tribunal who shall, upon conviction, impose the appropriate penalty.
- (4) Any willful falsification of entries in the register of membership by the Registrar or any other person acting for or on behalf of the Institute constitute an offence and the offender is liable on summary conviction to a fine in the minimum of ₦50,000 and not exceeding ₦250,000 or imprisonment for a term not more than two years or both.
- (5) Where the offences under subsections (3) (a), (b) and (c) is proved to have been committed by a body corporate, and attributable to the connivance or neglect of the officers of the body corporate, the directors, managers, secretary or other officers purporting to act in such capacity, shall be deemed guilty of that offence and shall be proceeded against and punished accordingly (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 16 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 17: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"professional economist" means a person or Associate members of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "professional economist" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Governing Board" means the Governing Board of the Institute established under section 3 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Governing Board" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Court" means any State High Court or Federal High Court (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Court" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"enrolled" in relation to a Fellow; Full member, corporate member, or an Associate member, means registered in the part of the register relating to a fellow, full member, corporate member, or Associate member (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "enrolled" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"fees" include annual subscription, development levy and membership fee (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "fees" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Institute" means the Institute of Economists of Nigeria established under section 1 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Institute" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"member" means a registered member of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "member" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for education (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Minister" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"President" and "Vice President" means office holders under those names in the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words “President” and “Vice President” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"register" means the register maintained under section 5 (3) of this Bill; and (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word “register” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Full Member" means a member of the Institute between a fellow and Associate member (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Full Member” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 17 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 18: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Institute of Economists of Nigeria Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 2 (13)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

Proceedings of Council

1. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Council may, in the name of the Institute, make standing orders to regulate proceedings of the Council, and in the exercise of its powers under this Bill, may set up committees in the general interest of the Institute including making standing orders.
- (2) Standing orders shall provide for decisions to be taken by a majority of the members, and, in the event of equality of votes, the Chairman, shall have a second or casting vote.
- (3) Standing orders made for a committee shall provide that the Committee is to report back to the Council on any matter not within its competence to decide.
- (4) The quorum of the Council shall be 12 and the quorum of a committee of the Council shall be fixed by the Council.

Meetings of the Institute

2. (1) The Council shall convene the annual general meeting of the Institute on such day and month as it may determine, but not more than 13 months shall elapse between the previous annual general meeting.
- (2) A special meeting of the Institute may be convened by the Council at any time; if more than 100 members require it by notice in writing addressed to the Registrar setting out the objects of the proposed meeting.

- (3) The Quorum of any meeting of the Institute shall be in the minimum of 50 financial members.

Meetings of the Council

3.
 - (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, and any standing orders of the Council, the Council shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman, and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice in writing given to him by not less than seven other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Council within seven days of the service of the notice.
 - (2) At any meeting of the Council, the President or in his absence the 1st or 2nd Vice-President as the case may be shall preside, but if both are absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of them to preside at that meeting.
 - (3) Where the Council desires to obtain advice from any person on a particular matter, the Council may co-opt that person as a member for such period as the Council may deem fit but a person who is a member by virtue of this provision shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council and shall not count towards a quorum.
 - (4) Notwithstanding anything in the provisions of this paragraph, the first meeting of the Council shall be summoned by the Chairman of the Council who may give such directions as he thinks fit as to the procedure which shall be followed at the meeting.

Committee

4.
 - (1) The Council may appoint one or more committees to carry out on behalf of the Institute such functions as it may determine.
 - (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of the number of persons determined by the Council and a person other than a member of the Council shall hold office in the committee in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which he is appointed.
 - (3) A decision of a committee is void if not confirmed by the Council.

Miscellaneous

5.
 - (1) The affixing of the seal of the Institute shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or another member of the Council authorised generally or specially to act for that purpose.
 - (2) Any contract or instrument which, if by a person not being body corporate, would not be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Institute or the Council as the case may require by any person generally or specially authorised to act for that purpose by the Council.
 - (3) Any document purporting to be duly executed under the seal of the Institute shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.
 - (4) The validity of any proceeding of the Institute or the Council or of a committee of the Council shall not be adversely affected by any vacancy in the membership, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the Institute or the Council or a person serving on the committee or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.

- (5) Any member of the Institute or of the Council or any person holding office in a committee of the Council who has a personal interest in any Contract, or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Council on behalf of the Institute, or on behalf of the Council, or a committee thereof, shall immediately disclose his interest to the Chairman of the Council, and shall not vote on any question relating to the said contract or arrangement.
- (6) A person shall not, by reason only of his membership of the Institute, be required to disclose any interest relating solely to the audit of the account of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the provisions of the First Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 12 (5)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE AND INVESTIGATING PANEL

The Tribunal

1. The quorum of the Tribunal shall be four of whom at least two shall be registered members.
2.
 - (1) The Chief Justice of Nigeria shall make rules as to the selection of members of the Tribunal for the purposes of any proceedings and as to the procedure to be followed and the rules of evidence to be observed in the proceedings before the Tribunal.
 - (2) The rules shall in particular provide —
 - (a) that notice of the proceedings shall be given, at such time and in such manner as may be specified by the rules, to the person who is the subject of the proceedings;
 - (b) for determining who, in addition to the person, shall be a party to the proceedings;
 - (c) for securing that any party to the proceedings shall, if he so requires, be entitled to be heard by the Tribunal;
 - (d) for enabling any party to the proceedings to be represented by a legal practitioner;
 - (e) subject to the provisions of this Bill, as to costs of the proceedings before the Tribunal;
 - (f) for requiring, in a case where it is alleged that the person who is the subject of the proceedings is guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect, that where the Tribunal adjudges that the allegation had not been proved it shall record a finding that the person is not guilty of such conduct in respect of the matters to which the allegation relates; and
 - (g) for publishing in the Federal Government Gazette of any direction of the Tribunal which has taken effect providing that a person's name shall be struck off from the register.

- (3) For the purpose of any proceeding before the Tribunal, any member of the Tribunal may administer oaths and any party to the proceedings may issue out of the Registry of the High Court writs of subpoena ad testificandum and duces tecum, but no person appearing before the Tribunal shall be compelled to —
 - (a) make any statement before the Tribunal tending to incriminate himself; or
 - (b) produce any document under such a writ which he is not to be compelled to produce at the trial of an action.
4.
 - (1) For the purpose of advising the Tribunal on questions of law arising in the proceedings before it, there shall, in all such proceedings, be an assessor to the Tribunal who shall be appointed by the Council on the nomination of the Attorney-General of the Federation and shall be a legal practitioner of not less than 10 years standing.
 - (2) The Attorney-General of the Federation shall make rules as to the functions of assessors appointed under this paragraph, and in particular, such rules shall contain provisions for securing —
 - (a) that where an assessor advises the Tribunal on any question of law as to evidence, procedure or any other matter specified by the rules, he shall do so in the presence of every party or person representing a party to the proceedings who appears there at or, if the advice is tendered while the Tribunal is deliberating in private, that every such party or person shall be informed what advice the assessor has tendered; and
 - (b) that every such party or person shall be informed if in any case the Tribunal does not accept the advice of the assessor on such question.
 - (3) An assessor may be appointed under this paragraph either generally or for any particular proceeding or class of proceedings and shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which he is appointed.

The Panel

5. The quorum of the Panel shall be three.
6.
 - (1) The Panel may, at any of its meeting, make standing orders with respect to its activities.
 - (2) Subject to the provisions of any such standing order, the Panel may regulate its own procedure.

Miscellaneous

7.
 - (1) A person ceasing to be a member of the Tribunal or the Panel shall be eligible for reappointment as a member of that body.
 - (2) A person may, if otherwise eligible, be a member of both the Tribunal and the Panel, but no person who acted as a member of the Panel with respect to any case shall act as the member of the Tribunal with respect to that case.
8. The Tribunal or the Panel may act, notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership, and the proceedings of either body shall not be invalidated by any irregularity in the appointment of a member of the body or by reason of the fact that any person who was not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of that body.

9. Any document authorised or required by virtue of this Bill to be served on the Tribunal or the Panel shall be served on the Registrar appointed under section (5) of this Bill.
10. Any expenses of the Tribunal or the Panel shall be defrayed by the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the provisions of the Second Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This establishes the Institute of Economists of Nigeria empowered with the responsibility to determine and regulate the standard of knowledge, skill and qualification of persons seeking to become professional economists in Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Economists of Nigerian Empowered with Responsibility to Determine and Regulate the Standards of Knowledge, Skills and Qualification of Persons Seeking to Become Professional Economists in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 224) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Economists of Nigerian Empowered with Responsibility to Determine and Regulate the Standards of Knowledge, skills and Qualification of Persons seeking to become Professional Economists in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 224) and approved Clauses 1 - 18, the Schedules, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.

- (ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House Representatives” (Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER FIVE

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

New Order Five, Rule 3

3. Emergency Sittings of the House

When necessary and subject to authorisation by the Speaker, temporary order shall be granted to allow members participate in Proceedings by electronic means (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*).

Negatived.

ORDER SEVEN

Move Order Seven, Rule 3 on the election of Speaker *Pro-Tempore* to Order Two — Election of Presiding Officers.

New Order seven Rule 15 (3)

- (3) and other duties as may be contained in National Assembly Service Commission Act, 2014 (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

ORDER EIGHT**ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS****(i) Rule 4. Matter(s) of Urgent Public Importance.**

- (4) Not more than three of such motions shall be made at the same sitting.

(ii) Personal Explanation.

5. By the leave of the House and the Speaker, a member may make a Personal Explanation although there be no question before the House; but no controversial matter may be brought forward or may debate arise upon the explanation.

(iii) Order of the Day.

6. (1) An order of the day is a Bill or other matter which the House has ordered to be taken into consideration on a particular day (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

ORDER TWELVE**PROCEDURE ON BILLS****Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly.**

16. The House may, upon being re-gazetted or circulated, reconsider in the Committee of the Whole, without commencing *de novo*, the Bills —

- (a) whose report was presented by the Committee before consideration;
- (b) passed by the House and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negative;
- (c) passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negative; or
- (d) passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding therefore was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the preceding Assembly (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo*

North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

ORDER EIGHTEEN

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Rule 1 (2) the Minimum number of members of a Committee shall be 20 and the Maximum shall be 40 members unless otherwise as authorised by the Speaker.

Rule 1 (3) no committee Chairman shall coopt or add any member to his committee without the express approval of the Speaker.

New Rule 1 (3)

No Member shall belong to more than 10 standing Committees unless expressly authorised by the Speaker.

(Renumber the Subsisting sub-Rules as (4), (5) and (6).

New Rule 11

"11. The House may constitute such number of Parliamentary Friendship Groups as may be directed by the Speaker.

The jurisdictions of the Groups shall be contained in this Standing Orders (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

ORDER TWENTY

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Establishment and Jurisdiction of Committees

Committee on Ethics and Privileges.

- (1) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Ethics and Privileges constituted at the commencement of the life of the House.

New Jurisdiction

- (f) every Member shall respond to inquiry letters and invitation on petition against him or any other matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House Representatives and rejected amendment to Order Five, approved Orders Seven, Eight, Twelve, Eighteen, approved Order Twenty, Rule 1, and 4 (f), and deferred further consideration of the Report till the next legislative day.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.

20. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 8 November, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Usman Bello Kumo — Chief Whip).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.11 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker