



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 1 November, 2023

1. The House met at 11.12 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 *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 31 October, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
4. **Message**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

31st October, 2023

Rt. Honorable Tajudeen Abbas
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 2022-2024 EXTERNAL BORROWING (ROLLING) PLAN

I write in reference to the above subject and to submit the attached Federal Government 2022-2024 External Borrowing Rolling Plan for consideration and early approval of the National Assembly to ensure prompt implementation of the projects.

2. *The House of Representative may wish to note that the past Administration approved the 2022-2024 Borrowing Plan at the Federal Executive Council (FEC) held on 15 May, 2023 (copy attached). The Projects cut across all sectors with specific emphasis on infrastructure, agriculture, health education, water supply, growth, Security and employment generation, as well as Financial Management Reforms, amongst others. The total facility of the projects and programmes under the Borrowing (Rolling) Plan is US\$7,864,508,559.00 and Euro€100,000,000.00 respectively.*
3. *The House of Representatives is invited to note that, following the removal of the Fuel Subsidy and its impact on the economy in the country, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank Group (WBG) have indicated interest to assist the country in mitigating the economic shocks and recent reforms with the sum of US\$1 Billion and US\$2 Billion respectively in addition to the FEC approved 2022-2024 External Borrowing Plan. Consequently, the required approval is in the sum of US\$7,864,508,559.00 and Euro€100,000,000.00*
4. *I would like to underscore the fact that the projects and programmes in the Borrowing Plan were selected based on positive technical economic evaluations as well as the expected contribution to the socio-economic development of the Country, including employment generation, Skills acquisitions, support the emergence of more entrepreneurs', poverty reduction and food security to improve the livelihood of an average Nigerian. The projects and programmes will be implemented in all 36 States of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory.*
5. *In view of the present economic realities facing the country, it has become imperative that we resort to prudent external borrowing to bridge the financing gap which will be applied to key infrastructure projects including power, railway and health, among others.*
6. *Given the nature of these facilities and the need to consolidate the country to normalcy, it has become exigent to request the NASS leadership's consideration and approval of the 2022-2024 external borrowing plan to enable the Government to deliver its responsibility to Nigerians, through expeditious disbursement and efficient Project Implementation.*
7. *While I hope that the House of Representatives, will consider and grant approval to this request in expeditious manner, please accept, Rt Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Bola Ahmed Tinubu

Matter referred to Committee on Aids, Loan and Debt Management.

5. Announcement

(i) Special Committee on Crude Oil Theft:

Mr Speaker announced Hon. Clement Jimbo as additional member of the Committee.

(ii) Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategic Paper 2024 - 2026:

Mr Speaker announced the referral of Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper 2024 - 2026 to the Committees on Finance, National Planning and Economic Development, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management.

6. Petitions

- (i)** A petition from Achir Mavis Seember, on non-payment of the death benefits of his late father, Daniel Achir Igbur by the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD), was presented and laid by Hon. Terseer Ugbor (*Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency*);

- (ii) The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Martins Esin (*Mbo/Okobo/Oron/Udung Uko/Urue Federal Constituency*):
- (a) Enenyi Edidiong Okon, on behalf of Oron Advocacy Unit, Oro Oil and Gas Committee, Akwa Ibom State, on alleged non-compliance with the Recommendations of the House by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) and one other;
 - (b) Enenyi Edidiong Okon, on alleged diversion of Transformers for Oron, Akwa Ibom, by the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC);
- (iii) A petition from Ita Essien & Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Corporal Ita Edet, on alleged non-compliance with court judgment No: HU/211C/2019 by the Police Service Commission, was presented and laid by Hon. Philip Agbese (*Calabar South/Akpabuyo/Bakasi Federal Constituency*);

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Persistent Kidnappings and killings in Oju and Obi Local Government Areas, Benue State:*** Hon. David Agada Ogewu (*Oju/Obi 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 Kidnappings and Killings in Oju and Obi Local Government Areas, Benue State:

The House:

Notes that Security of lives and properties is the primary responsibility of government and security is necessary for human existence and development, although insecurity in the present day in Nigeria is not peculiar to Oju/Obi Federal Constituency, communities of Opirikwu, Ijegwu, Itakpa and Ughodom of Obi LGA of Benue State which border Otukpo LGA are most affected by the kidnappings activities and killings;

Disturbed that the kidnapping and killings of road users which took place on 18 September, 2023, 28 and 29 October, 2023 in the stated communities if nothing is done to stop its continuity. It will hamper the socio-economic and educational development in the communities;

Worried that if this is allowed to continue, there will be food shortages and people might result to self-help which will lead to a total breakdown of law and order;

Acknowledges that on 6 July, 2023, it approved the establishment of a military base in Oju Local Government Area considering its border with Cross River and Ebonyi States. However, while the process for the establishment is in the pipeline, there is need for consistent patrol of army and other security agencies such as Nigeria police force etc. to

ensure synergy to have an effective and efficient communication system around the areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the people that lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to assign a patrol team that will constantly patrol Oju-Otukpo road and urge the agencies to adopt modern security tactics to bring to a half the daily kidnappings and killings in Oju/Obi Federal Constituency;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, National Security and Intelligence, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. David Agada Ogewu — Oju/Obi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Security of lives and properties is the primary responsibility of government and security is necessary for human existence and development, although insecurity in the present day in Nigeria is not peculiar to Oju/Obi Federal Constituency, communities of Opirikwu, Ijegwu, Itakpa and Ughodom of Obi LGA of Benue State which border Otukpo LGA are most affected by the kidnappings activities and killings;

Disturbed that the kidnapping and killings of road users which took place on 18 September, 2023, 28 and 29 October, 2023 in the stated communities if nothing is done to stop its continuity. It will hamper the socio-economic and educational development in the communities;

Worried that if this is allowed to continue, there will be food shortages and people might result to self-help which will lead to a total breakdown of law and order;

Acknowledges that on 6 July, 2023, it approved the establishment of a military base in Oju Local Government Area considering its border with Cross River and Ebonyi States. However, while the process for the establishment is in the pipeline, there is need for consistent patrol of army and other security agencies such as Nigeria police force etc. to ensure synergy to have an effective and efficient communication system around the areas;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the people that lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to assign a patrol team that will constantly patrol Oju-Otukpo road and urge the agencies to adopt modern security tactics to bring to a half the daily kidnappings and killings in Oju/Obi Federal Constituency;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, National Security and Intelligence, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (**HR. 311/11/2023**).

- (ii) ***Dangerous Trend in the Killing Young of Girls for Ritual Purposes in Nigeria:***
Hon. Awaji-Inombek Dagomie Abiante (*Andoni/Opobo Nkoro 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.

Dangerous Trend in the of Killing Young Girls for Ritual Purposes in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes the recent wave and sustained killings of our young girls who are mostly undergraduates by their supposed boyfriends for ritual purposes;

Also notes with dismay the recent murder of 20 years old Miss Justina Otuene an undergraduate student of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Port Harcourt by Damian Okoligwe who is also an undergraduate student of the same university last week, the murder of Augusta Osedion, a final year student of Lead City University in July 2023, by her boyfriend, Benjamin Best who goes by the nickname killaboi in Lagos; the murder of Miss Oghenefejiro Ochuko, a final year student of Ambrose Ali University who was equally killed in August 2023, by her boyfriend, Victor Ochonogor in Benin and several other unreported cases;

Worried that these killings have almost become a daily occurrence with several other reported cases of missing females with their whereabouts still unknown;

Also worried that few of the reported missing victims are often found dead without traces of the perpetrators;

Disturbed that these killings take similar patterns of dismembering the bodies of the victims whereby their vital organs are removed;

Also disturbed that the perpetrators of these heinous crimes are young boys who might not be working alone but with strong cartels;

Further disturbed that our young girls have become an endangered specie;

Cognizant of the need to protect our young girls and indeed every Nigerian as enshrined in section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended);

Resolves to:

- (i) observe one minute silence for Otuene, Augusta, Oghenefejiro and other victims of premeditated killings by these heartless gangs;
- (ii) call on the Inspector-General of Police to set up a crack team to conduct a holistic investigation with the sole aim of unmasking the cartels behind these killings and bring them to justice;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Awaji-Inombek Dagomie Abiante — Andoni/Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent wave and sustained killings of our young girls who are mostly undergraduates by their supposed boyfriends for ritual purposes;

Also noted with dismay the recent murder of 20 years old Miss Justina Otuene an undergraduate student of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Port Harcourt by Damian Okoligwe who is also an undergraduate student of the same university last week, the murder of Augusta Osedion, a final year student of Lead City University in July 2023, by her boyfriend, Benjamin Best who goes by the nickname Killaboi in Lagos; the murder of Miss Oghenefejiro Ochuko, a final year student of Ambrose Ali University who was equally killed in August 2023, by her boyfriend, Victor Ochonogor in Benin and several other unreported cases;

Worried that these killings have almost become a daily occurrence with several other reported cases of missing females with their whereabouts still unknown;

Also worried that few of the reported missing victims are often found dead without traces of the perpetrators;

Disturbed that these killings take similar patterns of dismembering the bodies of the victims whereby their vital organs are removed;

Also disturbed that the perpetrators of these heinous crimes are young boys who might not be working alone but with strong cartels;

Further disturbed that our young girls have become an endangered specie;

Cognizant of the need to protect our young girls and indeed every Nigerian as enshrined in section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended);

Resolved to:

- (i) observe one minute silence for Otuene, Augusta, Oghenefejiro and other victims of premeditated killings by these heartless gangs;
- (ii) call on the Inspector-General of Police to set up a crack team to conduct a holistic investigation with the sole aim of unmasking the cartels behind these killings and bring them to justice;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 312/11/2023**).

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.796).
- (2) National Agricultural Raw Materials Processing Centre, Garki, Jigawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.797).
- (3) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.798).

- (4) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.799).
- (5) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.800).
- (6) Federal University of Health Science Teaching Hospital, Azare (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.801).
- (7) National Health Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.802).
- (8) National Health Insurance Authority Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 803).
- (9) National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.804).
- (10) National Security Adviser (Appointment of Staff, etc.) Bill, 2023 (HB. 805).
- (11) National Primary Health Care Development Agency Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 806).
- (12) Mining Intelligence and Security Enhancement Bill, 2023 (HB. 807).
- (13) Nigerian Mining Development Bank (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.808).
- (14) Nigeria Police Training College, Umuoji, Anambra State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.809).
- (15) Sustainable Mining Infrastructure Development Bill, 2023 (HB.810).
- (16) Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.811).
- (17) National Football Academy, Enugu (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.812).
- (18) Minerals and Mining Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.813).
- (19) National Ear Care Centre, Ago-Iwoye (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.814).
- (20) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.815).

9. Presentation of Report

Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Abuse of Tax Incentives, tax Breaks and Tax Waivers:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Abuse of Tax Incentives, tax Breaks and Tax Waivers by Public Institutions and Companies benefitting from Tax Incentives” (*Hon. Makki Abubakar Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- 10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Interpretation Act, Cap. 123, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide Conditions for Appointment and Assumption of Office in Acting capacity, to provide the meaning of the certain words and for Related Matters (HB. 27) — *Second Reading***
- Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Interpretation Act, Cap. 123, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide Conditions for Appointment and Assumption of Office in Acting capacity, to provide the meaning of the certain words and for Related Matters (HB. 27) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere — Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency and Six Others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Justice.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Enact the Nigerian Content (Non-Oil and Gas Sector) Development to Establish the Nigerian Content (Non-Oil and Gas Sector) Development Council and to provide for Programme and structure for the use of Nigerian Expertise made in Nigeria goods and services, Economic Diversification and for Related Matters (HB. 59) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ako-Nike, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB.530) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ako-Nike, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB.530) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Paul Sunday Nnamchi — Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.

13. **Need to Proffer a Lasting Solution to the Devastating Gully Erosion/Total Road Collapse in Isiekenesi, Urualla, Obodukwu, Umueshi, Amanator, Arondizuogu, Akokwa, Villages and Communities in Ideato North/Ideato South Local Government Areas, Imo 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;

Also notes that the National Assembly is saddled with the task of making laws for the Peace, Order, and good governance of the Federation or any part thereof as enshrined in Section 4(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Observes that the erosion and road collapse in Communities in Imo State, particularly in Dimagu, Okohia, Umuaghobe, Isiekenesi, Urualla, Obodukwu, Umueshi, Amanator, Arondizuogu, and Akokwa, have impacted on socio-economic lives and left residents internally displaced;

Also observes that the Dimagu erosion after St. Barnabas Church and Umuojisi is a death trap for motorists, while the erosion sites in Okohia (Umufeke) and Umuaghobe (Uhuala) are encroaching into residential houses within the area, such as Isiekenesi, Urualla, Obodukwu, Umueshi, Amanator, Arondizuogu, and Akokwa;

Worried that the collapse of the alternative road bypass for motorists and pedestrians increases the

force of the erosion directly towards the popular Umuchima markets of Urualla, Obodukwu, Umueshi, Amanator, Arondizuogu, and Akokwa leading to uncontrollable flooding of the market;

Also worried that Ideato has become an erosion disaster zone, which has claimed about eight lives and destroyed over eight homes, the disaster has eaten deep into Akokwa, Arondizuogu Urualla, Obodukwu, Umueshi, Amanator and destroyed the bridge through which farmers access their farmlands;

Cognizant that the erosion of roads in Ideato, particularly Ntueke Umueshi and Arondizuogu, is causing severe economic threats to the agricultural sector of the area and the entire country, hence the need for urgent government intervention.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to consider the Ideato North/Ideato South Local Government Areas of Imo State as erosion disaster-threatened areas, and to assist in reconstructing infrastructure and involving it in rural road development projects;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency, Federal Ministry of Environment, and Ecological Fund Office to intervene and ensure the repair and reconstruction of damaged infrastructures in Ideato North/Ideato South Local Government Areas of Imo State;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, the National Emergency Management Agency, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and the Ecological Fund Office to resettle those displaced from their houses, offices, and business premises; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Works, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees, Environment, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within four (4) (*Hon. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere — Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*)

Agreed to.

(HR. 313/11/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees, Environment, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

14. Expenditure on the Postponed 2023 Population and Housing Census by the National Population Commission and Conduct of the National Population/Housing Census

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Census provides accurate population data crucial for development planning, policy formulation, resource allocation, and government program implementation, especially at a time when the Federal Government in conjunction with State Governments are working on giving palliatives to vulnerable citizens and also planning other social services;

Also notes that the National Population Commission in Nigeria conducts periodic censuses, surveys, and other methods to enumerate the country's population, providing data for national planning and economic development;

Further notes that the national census was last conducted in Nigeria in 2006 and the 2023 census, which was scheduled for May 2023, was postponed by the National Population Commission;

Worried that the data collected in the 2006 Population Census is far from reality in 2023 and cannot validly form a solid base for the formation of national economic policies that will aid the federal government in administering viable national planning;

Aware that the National Population Commission has admitted to having spent Two Hundred Billion Naira (₦200,000,000,000) as part of the Eight Hundred Billion Naira (₦800,000,000,000) budgeted for the planning mid-execution of the 2023 population and housing census, which was postponed;

Also aware that the financial investment in 2023 population census planning would have improved economic planning and distribution of palliatives in the country;

Also worried about the National Population Commission remarks, that if the population and housing census fails to take place within 12 months, the information gathered across the country would become stale, a waste of resources and the country would have to increase costs of gathering fresh information;

Further Aware that the National Population Commission, led by the Chairman, Alhaji Nasir Isa Kwarra, expressed readiness to conduct a population and housing census during a visit to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on July 6, 2023;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to declare a date for the Population and Housing Census exercise and conduct the 2023 population and housing census to facilitate accurate economic planning;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to upon fixing a date for the census, constitute Census Tribunals in designated centres in accordance with Section 28 of the National Population Commission, Act, 2004;
- (iii) further urge the National Population Commission not to relent in its preparation for the 2023 Population and Housing Census; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Population to investigate the money expended on the postponed 2023 population and housing census by the National Population Commission and liaise with the National Population Commission to ensure a successful population and housing census when proclaimed (*Hon. Dominic Okafor — Aguata Federal Constituency and One Other*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayers (i), (ii) and (iii) (*Hon. Gbefwi Gaza Jonathan — Keffi/Karu/Kokona Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Census provides accurate population data crucial for development planning, policy formulation, resource allocation, and government program implementation, especially at a time when the Federal Government in conjunction with State Governments are working on giving palliatives to vulnerable citizens and also planning other social services;

Also noted that the National Population Commission in Nigeria conducts periodic censuses, surveys, and other methods to enumerate the country's population, providing data for national planning and economic development;

Further noted that the national census was last conducted in Nigeria in 2006 and the 2023 census, which was scheduled for May 2023, was postponed by the National Population Commission;

Worried that the data collected in the 2006 Population Census is far from reality in 2023 and cannot validly form a solid base for the formation of national economic policies that will aid the federal government in administering viable national planning;

Aware that the National Population Commission has admitted to having spent Two Hundred Billion Naira (₦200,000,000,000) as part of the Eight Hundred Billion Naira (₦800,000,000,000) budgeted for the planning mid-execution of the 2023 population and housing census, which was postponed;

Also aware that the financial investment in 2023 population census planning would have improved economic planning and distribution of palliatives in the country;

Also worried about the National Population Commission remarks, that if the population and housing census fails to take place within 12 months, the information gathered across the country would become stale, a waste of resources and the country would have to increase costs of gathering fresh information;

Further Aware that the National Population Commission, led by the Chairman, Alhaji Nasir Isa Kwarra, expressed readiness to conduct a population and housing census during a visit to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on July 6, 2023;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Population to investigate the money expended on the postponed 2023 population and housing census by the National Population Commission and liaise with the National Population Commission to ensure a successful population and housing census when proclaimed (**HR. 314/11/2023**).

15. Need for Policies and Programmes to stem the tide of Unsustainable Brain Drain from Nigeria
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the current spate of Nigerian professionals and graduates emigrating from Nigeria in droves in search of greener pastures;

Also notes the inalienable right of every Nigerian citizen to choose where to live and work or earn a living as guaranteed by Section 34 (1) (c) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Cognizant of the importance of retaining the best brains of highly trained personnel as an indispensable substratum for the growth and development of the Nigerian economy;

Also cognizant of the direct relationship between human resource deficit and infrastructural cum developmental deficit and the need to expand, rather than decrease, the human resource availability ratio;

Concerned that health, academic and tech sectors are most affected and the continued emigration from Nigeria of her well-trained, experienced and resourceful manpower will negatively impact the nation's drive towards self-sustainability and emancipation from the clutches of poverty, disease and endemic crime;

Also concerned that a survey conducted by the Medical Organization revealed that about 75% of Nigerian doctors are considering work opportunities outside the country and according to data from the General Medical Council United Kingdom, between December 2021 and May 2022, a total of 727 Nigerian-trained medical doctors relocated to the United Kingdom, also a 2017 report by Quartz Africa indicated that the United States had more than 1,000 Nigerian professional academics working in its universities, which equals the number of doctorate holders employed in Nigerian universities;

Disturbed at the quantum of resources expended in the education, training and development of these professionals and graduates, who after the acquisition of the relevant training and cognate experience emigrate without commensurate contribution to the growth and development of the Nigerian economy.

Worried that if the current tide of emigration were to remain unchecked, the requisite trained and developed manpower resources would not be available for the growth and development of Nigeria, thereby compromising the future development of the country;

Aware that the country's human resources, with emigration, are grossly inadequate to cater for the needs of the private and public sector and, as such rather than deplete this resource it is, as a matter of urgency, imperative that the availability or deficit gap is reduced to its barest minimum;

Also aware that the introduction of sustainable policies and programmes that will motivate Nigerian Professionals to remain in, and/or return to, Nigeria has become an urgent necessity and the surest path out of this vicious circle of train, developing and loose.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to:
 - (a) engage relevant stakeholders to formulate appropriate policies and programmes to motivate Nigerian graduates to remain and work in Nigeria after acquiring training and development, and encourage those in the diaspora to return home, and
 - (b) formulate necessary policies and programmes that will demotivate Nigerian professionals and graduates from emigrating;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on National and Planning Economic Development to ensure compliance(*Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi — Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise Oron Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the current spate of Nigerian professionals and graduates emigrating from Nigeria in droves in search of greener pastures;

Also noted the inalienable right of every Nigerian citizen to choose where to live and work or earn a living as guaranteed by Section 34 (1) (c) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Cognizant of the importance of retaining the best brains of highly trained personnel as an indispensable substratum for the growth and development of the Nigerian economy;

Also cognizant of the direct relationship between human resource deficit and infrastructural cum

developmental deficit and the need to expand, rather than decrease, the human resource availability ratio;

Concerned that health, academic and tech sectors are most affected and the continued emigration from Nigeria of her well-trained, experienced and resourceful manpower will negatively impact the nation's drive towards self-sustainability and emancipation from the clutches of poverty, disease and endemic crime;

Also concerned that a survey conducted by the Medical Organization revealed that about 75% of Nigerian doctors are considering work opportunities outside the country and according to data from the General Medical Council United Kingdom, between December 2021 and May 2022, a total of 727 Nigerian-trained medical doctors relocated to the United Kingdom, also a 2017 report by Quartz Africa indicated that the United States had more than 1,000 Nigerian professional academics working in its universities, which equals the number of doctorate holders employed in Nigerian universities;

Disturbed at the quantum of resources expended in the education, training and development of these professionals and graduates, who after the acquisition of the relevant training and cognate experience emigrate without commensurate contribution to the growth and development of the Nigerian economy.

Worried that if the current tide of emigration were to remain unchecked, the requisite trained and developed manpower resources would not be available for the growth and development of Nigeria, thereby compromising the future development of the country;

Aware that the country's human resources, with emigration, are grossly inadequate to cater for the needs of the private and public sector and, as such rather than deplete this resource it is, as a matter of urgency, imperative that the availability or deficit gap is reduced to its barest minimum;

Also aware that the introduction of sustainable policies and programmes that will motivate Nigerian Professionals to remain in, and/or return to, Nigeria has become an urgent necessity and the surest path out of this vicious circle of train, developing and loose.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to:
 - (a) engage relevant stakeholders to formulate appropriate policies and programmes to motivate Nigerian graduates to remain and work in Nigeria after acquiring training and development, and encourage those in the diaspora to return home, and
 - (b) formulate necessary policies and programmes that will demotivate Nigerian professionals and graduates from emigrating;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on National and Planning Economic Development to ensure compliance **(HR. 315/11/2023)**.

16. Need to Mitigate the Impact of Continuous Flooding and Erosion in Kaduna South Local Government Area

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria experiences heavy rains annually, causing overflow of rivers and dams, leading to flooding, erosion, ecological disasters, destruction of properties, human and livestock loss, and socioeconomic setbacks

Informed that the Kaduna South Local Government Area experiences six months of annual rainfall, leading to River Kaduna overflow, flooding, and erosion, with the worst floods occurring in 2012, 2021, and 2022;

Concerned that the Flooding and erosion in Kaduna South Local Government Area have caused huge socioeconomic damage, destroying properties worth billions of Naira including roads, buildings, schools, mosques and churches;

Also concerned that erosion and floods have destroyed most areas in Kaduna South Local Government Area, especially in Kinkinau by the riverside, Barnawa Tudunnufawa, Down Quarters, Tudun-Wada, Bashama Road up to River Kaduna including the Burial Ground, e.t.c;

Worried that the poor drainage networks, inadequate waterways and the Kaduna River cannot accommodate the huge volumes of water discharged into it, thereby leading to flooding, erosion, and displacement, destroying industrial and economic progress, damaging the environment and reducing food production;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Ecological Fund Office to assess and address the severe ecological issues in Kaduna South Local Government Area;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to include the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected roads in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (iii) further urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), to provide relief materials to victims of the ecological problems in the affected areas; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Environment, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abdulkarim Hussani Ahmed — Kaduna South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 316/11/2023).

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

17. Activities of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), Staff Welfare, Management, Contract awards, Status of Properties and Quality of Train Plying Abuja - Kaduna and Other Parts of the Country From 2012 to 2023

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. Revitalization of Oji-River Federal Pilot Tannery

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Pilot Tannery at Oji-River in Enugu State, which was established in 1967 under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) for processing of hides and skin for leather products, has been abandoned for over a decade with a backlog of unpaid gratuities;

Also notes that recent reports have shown that the leather value chain is extensive, and leather products marketing is currently employing over 750,000 people, with about 500,000 workers in the finished leather goods sector, which has a potential to generate over US\$1 Billion by 2025;

Convinced that the revitalization of the Oji-River Federal Pilot Tannery holds great promise for job creation, economic diversification, reduction of high unemployment rate among Nigerian youth, skills development, sustainable livelihoods and reduction of social vices;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology to conduct a comprehensive assessment and thorough evaluation of the abandoned Federal Pilot Tannery at Oji-River in Enugu State, and make funding provisions for its revitalization and upgrade to international standards in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Science and Technology to liaise with relevant stakeholders to ensure the revitalization of the Oji-River Federal Pilot Tannery and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Chijoke Stanislaus Okereke — Aninri/Awgu/Oji River Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“urge the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology to encourage the processing of hides and skin by Small Scale Industries” (*Hon. Inuwa Garba — Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Pilot Tannery at Oji-River in Enugu State, which was established in 1967 under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) for processing of hides and skin for leather products, has been abandoned for over a decade with a backlog of unpaid gratuities;

Also noted that recent reports have shown that the leather value chain is extensive, and leather products marketing is currently employing over 750,000 people, with about 500,000 workers in the finished leather goods sector, which has a potential to generate over US\$1 Billion by 2025;

Convinced that the revitalization of the Oji-River Federal Pilot Tannery holds great promise for job creation, economic diversification, reduction of high unemployment rate among Nigerian youth, skills development, sustainable livelihoods and reduction of social vices;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology to conduct a comprehensive assessment and thorough evaluation of the abandoned Federal Pilot Tannery at Oji-River in Enugu State, and make funding provisions for its revitalization and upgrade to international standards in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Science and Technology to liaise with relevant stakeholders to ensure the revitalization of the Oji-River Federal Pilot Tannery and report within six (6) weeks (**HR. 317/11/2023**).

19. Non-implementation of the International Cargo Tracking Notes (ICTN) by the Nigeria Shippers Council

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian ports handle nearly 60% of Gulf of Guinea cargo, making them the primary destination in West and Central Africa;

Also notes that the cases of undocumented cargo in seaports pose security and efficiency challenges, perpetuating fraud and insecurity arising from the concealment of cargo manifests, leading to a lack of reliable data that leads to revenue loss for the nation;

Aware that the Union of African Shippers Councils (UASC) introduced the International Cargo Tracking Notes (ICTN) in 1998 as a measure to enhance the safety and security of supply chain facilities, track the origin and destination of cargo, and provide reliable data on imports and exports;

Also aware that the International Cargo Tracking Notes (ICTN) technology centralizes tamper-proof information, improves monitoring, and prevents illegal activities like smuggling and counterfeiting, aligning with World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Customs Organization (WCO) recommendations on trade facilitation and security;

Concerned that the measure has not been fully implemented in Nigeria due to alleged irregularities despite the presence of the Nigeria Shippers Council as the implementing authority, aiming for transparency and efficiency;

Worried that non-implementation has led to increased cargo-related security challenges, such as smuggling and illicit trade, resulting in significant financial losses costing the country billions of Naira due to the lack of accurate data and revenue leakage;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Shipping Services and Related Matters to investigate the circumstances surrounding the non-implementation of the International Cargo Tracking Notes (ICTN), identify any obstacles or challenges faced by the Nigeria Shippers Council in carrying out its role effectively, and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Ahmad Sani Muhammad — Bakura/Maradun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “Related Matters”, *insert* the words “Customs, and Ports and Harbours” (*Hon. Chris Nkwonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (i) In the Prayer as amended, immediately after the words “Customs, and Ports and Harbours”, *insert* the words “Maritime Safety and Administration” (*Hon. Anthony Adebayo Adepolu — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian ports handle nearly 60% of Gulf of Guinea cargo, making them the primary destination in West and Central Africa;

Also noted that the cases of undocumented cargo in seaports pose security and efficiency challenges, perpetuating fraud and insecurity arising from the concealment of cargo manifests, leading to a lack of reliable data that leads to revenue loss for the nation;

Aware that the Union of African Shippers Councils (UASC) introduced the International Cargo Tracking Notes (ICTN) in 1998 as a measure to enhance the safety and security of supply chain facilities, track the origin and destination of cargo, and provide reliable data on imports and exports;

Also aware that the International Cargo Tracking Notes (ICTN) technology centralizes tamper-proof information, improves monitoring, and prevents illegal activities like smuggling and counterfeiting, aligning with World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Customs Organization (WCO) recommendations on trade facilitation and security;

Concerned that the measure has not been fully implemented in Nigeria due to alleged irregularities despite the presence of the Nigeria Shippers Council as the implementing authority, aiming for transparency and efficiency;

Worried that non-implementation has led to increased cargo-related security challenges, such as smuggling and illicit trade, resulting in significant financial losses costing the country billions of Naira due to the lack of accurate data and revenue leakage;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Shipping Services and Related Matters, Customs, Ports and Harbours, and Maritime Safety and Administration to investigate the circumstances surrounding the non-implementation of the International Cargo Tracking Notes (ICTN), identify any obstacles or challenges faced by the Nigeria Shippers Council in carrying out its role effectively, and report within six (6) weeks (**HR. 318/11/2023**).

20. Consideration of Reports

(i) *Ad-hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda:*

That the House do consider the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Legislative Agenda of the House of Representatives and approve the recommendations therein.

Order read; deferred by leave of the House till Thursday, 9 November, 2023.

(ii) *Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House of Representatives (Committee of the Whole):*

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 of Representatives and approve the recommendations therein” (*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)

Consideration deferred till Thursday, 9 November, 2023, to enable Members study the Report.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House of Representatives till Thursday, 9 November, 2023.

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

21. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 2 November, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.40 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker