



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 13 March, 2024

1. The House met at 11.03 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, 12 March, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 5)**
 - (i) ***Resumption of the Implementation of the National Social Investment Programme in Order to Alleviate the Current Increasing Hardship Faced by Nigerians:***
Hon. Billy Famous Osawaru (*Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Resumption of the Implementation of the National Social Investment Programme in Order to Alleviate the Current Increasing Hardship Faced by Nigerians:

The House:

Notes that the enabling Act of National Social Investment Programme Agency was enacted in 2023 to address the issue of poverty and hunger across the country as well as to ensure a

more equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable populations including children, youth and women;

Also notes that since January this year 2024, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development was suspended and placed under investigation while the Chief Executive Officer and National Coordinator of National Social Investment Programme Agency was sacked and new Chief Executive Officer and National Coordinator replaced;

Aware that as a result of the above, the implementation of all forms of government intervention such as N-Power Programme, Conditional Cash Transfer Programme, Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme and Home Grown School Feeding Programme that are expected to ameliorate the suffering of people, were placed on hold, pending thorough review of the programme and investigation of the alleged misconduct in the management of the programme;

Concerned that halting the implementation of the programme particularly during this period of increasing hardship has the implication of heightening the challenges of the vulnerable population relying on its assistance and could lead to rise in poverty levels, social unrest and ultimately impacting negatively on the overall stability and development of the country;

Also concerned about the recent cases of looting of warehouses and food trucks in many cities across the country as a result of increasing hunger and sufferings, which signals the need for immediately action to ameliorate the sufferings of Nigerians such as the resumption of all form of Social Investment Programme;

Relieved that the interim report of the 6-man probe panel appointed by Mr President to investigate the allegations surrounding the embattled Minister has recommended the resumption of the programme;

Worried that an alleged recommendation suggesting that a new steering committee board under the leadership of the Minister of Finance should henceforth oversee the social investment programmes is not only an anomaly but contravenes the extant law which situates the implementing agency and programmes under the purview of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation;

Observes that while there may be legislative actions to amend the National Social Investment Programme Agency Act, 2023, up until the Act is completely amended, and enacted, the current status quo cannot be reviewed by mere executive action;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to expedite the completion of the investigation of the suspended Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and to instigate further actions in the meantime, direct a serving Minister of State to oversee relevant approvals and implementation of the National Social Investment Programme to minimize the adverse implication of increasing hunger and sufferings experienced by vulnerable Nigerians relying on the programme;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to place on hold the alleged idea of a new Steering Committee Board under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance to oversee the social investment programmes since such idea contravenes the extant law which positions the implementing agency and programmes under the purview of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (*Hon. Billy Famous Osawaru — Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the enabling Act of National Social Investment Programme Agency was enacted in 2023 to address the issue of poverty and hunger across the country as well as to ensure a more equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable populations including children, youth and women;

Also noted that since January this year 2024, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development was suspended and placed under investigation while the Chief Executive Officer and National Coordinator of National Social Investment Programme Agency was sacked and new Chief Executive Officer and National Coordinator replaced;

Aware that as a result of the above, the implementation of all forms of government intervention such as N-Power Programme, Conditional Cash Transfer Programme, Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme and Home Grown School Feeding Programme that are expected to ameliorate the suffering of people, were placed on hold, pending thorough review of the programme and investigation of the alleged misconduct in the management of the programme;

Concerned that halting the implementation of the programme particularly during this period of increasing hardship has the implication of heightening the challenges of the vulnerable population relying on its assistance and could lead to rise in poverty levels, social unrest and ultimately impacting negatively on the overall stability and development of the country;

Also concerned about the recent cases of looting of warehouses and food trucks in many cities across the country as a result of increasing hunger and sufferings, which signals the need for immediately action to ameliorate the sufferings of Nigerians such as the resumption of all form of Social Investment Programme;

Relieved that the interim report of the 6-man probe panel appointed by Mr President to investigate the allegations surrounding the embattled Minister has recommended the resumption of the programme;

Worried that an alleged recommendation suggesting that a new steering committee board under the leadership of the Minister of Finance should henceforth oversee the social investment programmes is not only an anomaly but contravenes the extant law which situates the implementing agency and programmes under the purview of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation;

Observed that while there may be legislative actions to amend the National Social Investment Programme Agency Act, 2023, up until the Act is completely amended, and enacted, the current status quo cannot be reviewed by mere executive action;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to expedite the completion of the investigation of the suspended Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and to instigate further actions in the meantime, direct a serving Minister of State to oversee relevant approvals and implementation of the National Social Investment Programme so as to minimize the adverse implication of increasing

hunger and sufferings experienced by vulnerable Nigerians relying on the programme;

- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to place on hold the alleged idea of a new Steering Committee Board under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance to oversee the social investment programmes since such idea contravenes the extant law which positions the implementing agency and programmes under the purview of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (**HR. 138/03/2024**).

(ii) ***Need to Save Odioama, Sangana, Miniamgba, Fishtown and Oginibiri Communities from Extinction:***

Hon. Marie Enenimiete Ebikake (*Brass/Nembe Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Save Qdioama, Sangana, Miniamgba, Fishtown and Oginibiri Communities from Extinction:

The House:

Notes the strategic, economic importance of the island community of Odioama, situated on the Atlantic coastline of Brass on coordinates 420'N and 6*26'E, and the Akassa communities of Miniamgba, Sangana, Fishtown and Oginibiri located on the Southernmost tip of the country, on coordinates 4.9176N and 6.1053*E, as major sources of essential sea foods and key players in the fisheries sector of the nation's economy with the additional role of Odioama as host to the Flow-station formerly operated by the Shell Petroleum Development Company SPDC for the joint venture, now acquired by Aiteo Ltd and the Brass Fertilizer and Petrochemical Company, whereas Akassa is the historical home of the Royal Niger Company and location of a Lighthouse built in 1910;

Also notes the menace of sea encroachment on these communities, consequent on their proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, which has caused massive loss of shoreline and prime land;

Further notes the perennial tidal erosion which, according to surveys, occurs at an average rate of 5 meters annually, represents an alarming loss of 150meters of prime land, the size of a football field and half, between 1993 and today with increasing rate of devastation, at present, the consequence of another 10 years will be the total extinction of these communities;

Informed that the most recent incident, the worst in several years, occurred barely three days ago, in March 2024 when waves of tsunami proportions, travelling at an approximate speed of 120mph smashed, what was left of these shorelines, destroying fishing boats and equipment, residential and public buildings depriving many of the means of livelihood, and rendering countless others homeless;

Worried that the unmitigated encroachment on these lands, by the actions of the Atlantic Ocean, aggravated by the activity of mega ocean-going vessels daily plying the coastlines,

is a recipe for irreversible economic and social disaster in the total extinction of these economically viable communities of Odioama, Sangana, Oginibiri, Fishtown and Miniamgba, in the Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works, the Niger Delta Development Commission and the Ecological Fund Management Office to jointly carry out a feasibility study of these devastated communities and proffer an enduring solution which, necessarily, should include the construction of durable shore protection along the perimeters of the shorelines of these communities, to stem the tide of ferocious waves, and save the total disintegration of life;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to, as short-term measure, provide relief materials to these communities, to cushion the traumatic effects of the recent disaster;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, Ecological Fund, and the Niger Delta Development Commission to monitor compliance and report in one (1) week (*Hon. Marie Enenimiete Ebikake — Brass/Nembe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the strategic, economic importance of the island community of Odioama, situated on the Atlantic coastline of Brass on coordinates 420'N and 6°26'E, and the Akassa communities of Miniamgba, Sangana, Fishtown and Oginibiri located on the Southernmost tip of the country, on coordinates 4.9176N and 6.1053°E, as major sources of essential sea foods and key players in the fisheries sector of the nation's economy with the additional role of Odioama as host to the Flow-station formerly operated by the Shell Petroleum Development Company SPDC for the joint venture, now acquired by Aiteo Ltd and the Brass Fertilizer and Petrochemical Company, whereas Akassa is the historical home of the Royal Niger Company and location of a Lighthouse built in 1910;

Also noted the menace of sea encroachment on these communities, consequent on their proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, which has caused massive loss of shoreline and prime land;

Further noted the perennial tidal erosion which, according to surveys, occurs at an average rate of 5 meters annually, represents an alarming loss of 150meters of prime land, the size of a football field and half, between 1993 and today with increasing rate of devastation, at present, the consequence of another 10 years will be the total extinction of these communities;

Informed that the most recent incident, the worst in several years, occurred barely three days ago, in March 2024 when waves of tsunami proportions, travelling at an approximate speed of 120mph smashed, what was left of these shorelines, destroying fishing boats and equipment, residential and public buildings depriving many of the means of livelihood, and rendering countless others homeless;

Worried that the unmitigated encroachment on these lands, by the actions of the Atlantic Ocean, aggravated by the activity of mega ocean-going vessels daily plying the coastlines, is a recipe for irreversible economic and social disaster in the total extinction of these

economically viable communities of Odioama, Sangana, Oginibiri, Fishtown and Miniamgba, in the Brass Local government Area of Bayelsa State;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works, the Niger Delta Development Commission and the Ecological Fund Management Office to jointly carry out a feasibility study of these devastated communities and proffer an enduring solution which, necessarily, should include the construction of durable shore protection along the perimeters of the shorelines of these communities, to stem the tide of ferocious waves, and save the total disintegration of life;
 - (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to, as short-term measure, provide relief materials to these communities, to cushion the traumatic effects of the recent disaster;
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, Ecological Fund, and the Niger Delta Development Commission to monitor compliance and report in one (1) week (**HR. 139/03/2024**).
- (iii) ***Provision of Free Cancer Treatment in Nigeria:***
Hon. Yusuf Ahmad Badau (*Shanono/Bagwai Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Provision of Free Cancer Treatment in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that the devastation cause by cancer disease and the rising number of cancer patients in Nigeria is very alarming and urgent step is needed to cushion the effect on the affected persons of the disease;

Also notes that this disease has recorded unprecedented cases of deaths in recent time due to lack of government intervention in cancer treatment which result to difficulties been experienced by many affected persons in meeting the financial obligation of the treatment;

Aware that the majority of these affected persons are low income earners mostly in rural communities where there is no or just little fund, awareness on prevention and managing cancer disease in as to other developed Nations of the world;

Also aware that there is urgent need for government to provide the legal framework to ensure free treatment of cancer in all Teaching Hospitals so as to eradicate or reduce the high rate of death caused by cancer disease in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to direct all Teaching Hospitals to immediately

establish Cancer Treatment Centers and commence free treatment of cancer patients in their Hospitals;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and Budget Office of the Federation to appropriate funds to ensure the establishment of the Cancer Treatment Centers and free cancer treatment exercise in Nigeria;
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Health Services, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Yusuf Ahmed Badau — Shanono/Bagwai Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the devastation cause by cancer disease and the rising number of cancer patients in Nigeria is very alarming and urgent step is needed to cushion the effect on the affected persons of the disease;

Also noted that this disease has recorded unprecedented cases of deaths in recent time due to lack of government intervention in cancer treatment which result to difficulties been experienced by many affected persons in meeting the financial obligation of the treatment;

Aware that the majority of these affected persons are low income earners mostly in rural communities where there is no or just little fund, awareness on prevention and managing cancer disease in as to other developed Nations of the world;

Also aware that there is urgent need for government to provide the legal framework to ensure free treatment of cancer in all Teaching Hospitals so as to eradicate or reduce the high rate of death caused by cancer disease in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to direct all Teaching Hospitals to immediately establish Cancer Treatment Centers and commence free treatment of cancer patients in their Hospitals;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and Budget Office of the Federation to appropriate funds to ensure the establishment of the Cancer Treatment Centers and free cancer treatment exercise in Nigeria;
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Health Services, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 140/03/2024**).

5. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal Capital Territory Statutory Appropriations Bill, 2024 (HB.1267).
- (2) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1147).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1148).
- (4) Taxes and Levies (Approved list for collection) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1149).

- (5) Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1150).
- (6) National Tobacco Smoking Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1151).
- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1152).
- (8) Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1153).
- (9) Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science and Technology, Eka-Midim, Akwa Ibom State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1157).
- (10) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1158).
- (11) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1159).
- (12) National Assembly Library Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1259).

6. Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Make Provision for the Retirement Age of Staff of the National Assembly Service and for Related Matters (HB. 529)

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive and adopt Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Make Provision for the Retirement Age of Staff of the National Assembly Service and for Related Matters (HB. 529)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

7. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Nigerian Maritime University, Okerenkoko and for Related Matters (SB. 75) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Nigerian Maritime University, Okerenkoko and for Related Matters (SB. 75) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

8. A Bill for an Act to Establish National Institute for Construction Technology and Management Itele, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB.654) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish National Institute for Construction Technology and Management Itele, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB.654) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Joseph Folorunsho Adegbesan — Ijebu North/Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside 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 Works.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, 2019 (as amended) to Establish

Federal Artificial Intelligence Institute, Aliade, Benue State for the purpose of Providing Qualitative and Structured Education in Artificial Intelligence Technology and for Related Matters (HB.377) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, 2019 (as amended) to Establish Federal Artificial Intelligence Institute, Aliade, Benue State for the purpose of Providing Qualitative and Structured Education in Artificial Intelligence Technology and for Related Matters (HB.377) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Austin Asema Achado — Gwer East/Gwer West 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 Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education.

10. Menace of Circulating Fake Consumables in Nigeria

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. Collapse Drugs Revolving Funds and Indebtedness of Federal Health Institutions to the Pharmaceutical Firms in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the Report of Guardian Newspaper of 2 November, 2023, that the Drug Revolving Funds scheme, created as a result of the Essential Drug Act, was to address challenges of the perennial out of stock syndrome of drugs in public health institutions;

Also notes that the Drugs Revolving Funds scheme was initially successful, but has been mutilated by hospital management, resulting in pharmaceutical firms owing 18 billion Naira in 2021 and 30 billion Naira in 2023;

Aware of the existence of the Drugs Revolving Funds (DRF), a National Contingency Plan designed to tackle the menace of this out-of-stock syndromes in public pharmacy department and ensure that Federal Health Institutions are adequately stocked with essential drugs for medically challenged Nigerians;

Cognizant that a well-run Drugs Revolving Funds (DRF) tackles the menace of this out-of-stock syndromes in public pharmacy department, DRF scheme of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi (NOHI) which was flagship over a decade ago gave birth to a pharmacy house worth over 300 million Naira in 2014 without a collapse of the DRF programme because the management of the hospital at the time gave the much-needed cooperation;

Worried that this laudable initiative has been abused over a period of time through the accumulation of unpaid supplies from pharmaceutical firm under this funding arrangement, culminating in its eventual collapse.

Concerned that the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) has called on the past administration to probe the activities of the National Hospital, Igbobi affair in order to resuscitate the Drug Revolving scheme;

Cognizant that unless the collapse of the drug revolving fund is addressed, as a matter of urgency, further supplies of these essential drugs to Federal Health Institutions will remain a pipedream, thereby increasing pressure on the already struggling healthcare system;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Health Institutions to investigate the collapse of the drug revolving funds scheme, verify facts and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Adedayo Samuel Adesola — Apapa Federal Constituency and Two others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the Report of Guardian Newspaper of 2 November, 2023, that the Drug Revolving Funds scheme, created as a result of the Essential Drug Act, was to address challenges of the perennial out of stock syndrome of drugs in public health institutions;

Also noted that the Drugs Revolving Funds scheme was initially successful, but has been mutilated by hospital management, resulting in pharmaceutical firms owing 18 billion Naira in 2021 and 30 billion Naira in 2023;

Aware of the existence of the Drugs Revolving Funds (DRF), a National Contingency Plan designed to tackle the menace of this out-of-stock syndromes in public pharmacy department and ensure that Federal Health Institutions are adequately stocked with essential drugs for medically challenged Nigerians;

Cognizant that a well-run Drugs Revolving Funds (DRF) tackles the menace of this out-of-stock syndromes in public pharmacy department, DRF scheme of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi (NOHI) which was flagship over a decade ago gave birth to a pharmacy house worth over 300 million Naira in 2014 without a collapse of the DRF programme because the management of the hospital at the time gave the much-needed cooperation;

Worried that this laudable initiative has been abused over a period of time through the accumulation of unpaid supplies from pharmaceutical firm under this funding arrangement, culminating in its eventual collapse.

Concerned that the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) has called on the past administration to probe the activities of the National Hospital, Igbobi affair in order to resuscitate the Drug Revolving scheme;

Cognizant that unless the collapse of the drug revolving fund is addressed, as a matter of urgency, further supplies of these essential drugs to Federal Health Institutions will remain a pipedream, thereby increasing pressure on the already struggling healthcare system;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Health Institutions to investigate the collapse of the drug revolving funds scheme, verify facts and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 141/03/2024**).

12. Rehabilitation of Bad Portions of the Akunu - Ayere - Kabba Road and Rejig Security Architecture in the Area

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Akunu, a border town in Ondo State, is primarily inhabited by farmers and shares borders with Kogi State;

Also notes that Akunu - Aiyere - Kabba road is in severe disrepair, with potholes potential for kidnapping and criminal activities, causing frustration among motorists and users;

Concerned that between 2023 and 2024, many Nigerians have been killed by bandits on this axis;

Alarmed that on February 9, 2024, a bandit ambushed and shot an 18-seater bus from Lagos to Abuja, killing the driver, abducting all passengers, and leaving a 5-year-old girl in shock;

Aware that the Minister of Interior, Hon. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, as a former Hon. Member moved a motion for establishment of a police station in Akunu, Ondo State, but has not been implemented;

Disturbed that the insecurity situation in this axis has affected the socio- economic activities in the area and neighbouring towns and communities;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the those killed on the 9 February ,2024;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to rehabilitate the failed portions of the road;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector General of Police establish a Divisional Police Station in the Akunnu Akoko North East/North West Federal Constituency of Ondo State;
- (iv) further urge the Service Chiefs to deploy Military patrol personnel to the Akunu - Aiyere - Kabba Road; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Works, Army, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ifeoluwa Ehindero Babajide — Akoko North East/Akoko North West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayer (ii), and *insert* as follows:

“urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to rehabilitate the failed road from Ihima - Aduge - Aiyere in Kogi State, and Akunu - Kabba in Ondo State” (*Hon. Salman Idris — Kabba Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Akunu, a border town in Ondo State, is primarily inhabited by farmers and shares borders with Kogi State;

Also noted that Akunu - Aiyere - Kabba road is in severe disrepair, with potholes potential for kidnapping and criminal activities, causing frustration among motorists and users;

Concerned that between 2023 and 2024, many Nigerians have been killed by bandits on this axis;

Alarmed that on February 9, 2024, a bandit ambushed and shot an 18-seater bus from Lagos to Abuja, killing the driver, abducting all passengers, and leaving a 5-year-old girl in shock;

Aware that the Minister of Interior, Hon. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, as a former Hon. Member moved a motion for establishment of a police station in Akunu, Ondo State, but has not been implemented;

Disturbed that the insecurity situation in this axis has affected the socio- economic activities in the area and neighbouring towns and communities;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the those killed on the 9 February 2024;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to rehabilitate the failed road from Ihima - Aduge - Aiyere in Kogi State, and Akunu - Kabba in Ondo State;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector General of Police establish a Divisional Police Station in the Akunnu Akoko North East/North West Federal Constituency of Ondo State;
- (iv) further urge the Service Chiefs to deploy patrol Military personnel to the Akunu - Aiyere - Kabba Road; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Works, Army, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (**HR. 142/03/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

13. Call to Resuscitate the Power Transmission Substation in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), provided for the economic and social rights of the citizens;

Also notes that on 23 September, 2023, the 132/33KV Transmission Substation serving Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State Capital and its environs was gutted by fire, throwing Yenagoa in total darkness. Subsequently, the State has been struggling to use only a feeder to supply five feeders;

Worried that the operational feeder is getting weak and, if urgent steps are not taken, the feeder will collapse;

Cognizant that the Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company has been carrying out remedial services to avert the collapse of the weak operational feeder;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to swiftly intervene to prevent the complete collapse of Power Distribution and Transmission in Yenagoa; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure Compliance (*Hon. Obuku Abonsizibe Oforji —Yenogo/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 143/03/2024).

Motion referred to the Committee on Power, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

14. Arbitrary Increase in the Price of Cement by Manufacturers of Cement in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the manufacturers of cement have increased the price of their products by up to 50%, leading to sharp hikes in building blocks, the cost of building, and consequently, the price of rent in the country;

Also notes that the raw materials for the manufacture of cement, which include lime, silica, alumina, iron oxide, and gypsum, are all sourced locally and not affected by exchange rate volatility;

Aware that all the factors of production and elements of the cement production flow chart are also sourced locally and have not changed significantly year-on-year;

Concerned that the manufacturers of cement are capitalizing on exchange volatility to arbitrarily increase the price of the product, whose cost of production has not changed significantly since last year;

Also concerned that the cement cabal is unconscionably inflicting hardship on Nigerians as the prices of rent and associated services have increased.

Cognizant that the increase is a direct affront and sabotage of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration's effort to bring comfort to the populace and should be resolved immediately;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Solid Minerals Development, Commerce, Industry and Special Duties to investigate the Arbitrary increase in the Price of Cement by Manufacturers of Cement in the country and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbefwi — Keffi/Karu/Kokona Federal Constituency and one other*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* the Title of the Motion, and *insert* as follows:
“Need to Investigate the Arbitrary Increase in the Price of Cement and reinforcement bars by the Manufacturers of Cement and Steel bars in Nigeria” (*Hon. Ibrahim Almustapha Aliyu — Wurno/Rabat Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
“mandate the Committee on Solid Minerals Development to investigate the approval granted by Late President Shehu Yar’Adua to establish cement factories in Nigeria” (*Hon. Chinedu Ogah — Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“invite Cement Manufacturers to the House in a Plenary to answer questions from Members on the escalation of cement prices in the country especially in recent days” (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the manufacturers of cement have increased the price of their products by up to 50%, leading to sharp hikes in building blocks, the cost of building, and consequently, the price of rent in the country;

Also noted that the raw materials for the manufacture of cement, which include lime, silica, alumina, iron oxide, and gypsum, are all sourced locally and not affected by exchange rate volatility;

Aware that all the factors of production and elements of the cement production flow chart are also sourced locally and have not changed significantly year-on-year;

Concerned that the manufacturers of cement are capitalizing on exchange volatility to arbitrarily increase the price of the product, whose cost of production has not changed significantly since last year;

Also concerned that the cement cabal is unconscionably inflicting hardship on Nigerians as the prices of rent and associated services have increased.

Cognizant that the increase is a direct affront and sabotage of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration's effort to bring comfort to the populace and should be resolved immediately;

Resolved to:

- (i) invite Cement Manufacturers to the House in a Plenary to answer questions from Members on the escalation of cement prices in the country especially in recent days;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Solid Minerals Development to investigate the approval granted by Late President Shehu Yar' Adua to establish cement factories in Nigeria;
- (iii) further mandate the Committees on Solid Minerals Development, Commerce, Industry and Special Duties to investigate the Arbitrary increase in the Price of Cement by Manufacturers of Cement in the country and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 144/03/2024**).

15. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 14 March, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.13 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the ***Votes and Proceedings*** of Thursday, 7 March, 2024, **item 19**, pages-2427-2428, *leave out* all the words in the amendment and *insert* as follows:

“The subject matter of Security be taught at the secondary school level and not the primary schools inclusive” (*Hon. Obordor Mitema — Ogbia Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived”.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker