



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 16 October, 2024

1. The House met at 11.02 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, 15 October, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Speaker announced the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Chairmen from Ikole and Oye Local Government Areas, Ekiti State:
 - (1) Hon. Ajayi Ojo Adebayo, Chairman, Ikole LCDA,
 - (2) Hon. Omojola Bayo, Chairman, Ikole Local Government Area,
 - (3) Hon. Ogungbemi Michael, Chairman, Ajoni LCDA,
 - (4) Hon. Adeyemo Mosunmola, Chairman, Ikole West LCDA,
 - (5) Hon. Adesola Bamitale, Chairman, Oye Local Government Area,
 - (6) Hon. Ajibola Muyiwa, Chairman, Ifesowapo LCDA,
 - (7) Hon. Sola Oniyelu, Chairman, Ifeloju LCDA;
- (ii) Members of National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Joint Campus Council (JCC), Kano State.

5. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Legal Logic (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of National Youth Council of Nigeria, Lagos State Chapter, on alleged extortion and harassment by the Nigerian Customs Service, and other Security Personnel along Agbara - Badagry - Semi Highway, Lagos State, was presented and laid by Hon. Whingan Sesi Oluseun (*Badagry Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Sgt. Augustine Effiong, on the termination of his appointment by the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Ime Okon Bassey (*Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 5)

- (i) ***Need for Completion of the Abuja - Kaduna - Kano Road:***
Hon. Hussaini Mohammed Jallo (*Igabi 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 for Completion of the Abuja - Kaduna - Kano Road:

The House:

Notes that the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road is one of the most significant highways in Nigeria, connecting the nation's capital, Abuja, to the key Northern cities of North West and North East States;

Also notes that this road serves as a critical artery for trade, transportation, and National Integration as such needs Urgent Intervention;

Further notes that the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road were first captured in Nigeria's 2018 Appropriation Act under the Buhari Administration with the aim of addressing its worsening condition but progress has been slow and significant portions of the road remain incomplete;

Worried that the deteriorating state of the road, coupled with slow construction progress has created multiple hazards, making it one of the most dangerous highways in the country today, which has become a prime target for kidnappers and armed robbers, who exploit the delays and breakdowns usually experienced on the road to attack stranded travellers and has become a death trap for travellers going to the North Western States of Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Zamfara States as well as North Eastern States of Yobe, Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe;

Also worried that due to the poor condition of the roads, vehicles especially trailers, frequently breakdown, blocking major portions of the road for extended periods, leading to severe traffic with vehicles stuck for hours, forcing so many road users to spend their night on the road;

Disturbed that the economic Impact of these delays is significant, with businesses losing millions of Naira due to delayed deliveries and increased transportation costs, affecting both local and national commerce;

Aware that timely intervention and completion of this project will restore public confidence in the ability of government to deliver critical infrastructure and reduce the insecurity that has gripped the region;

Also aware that several Motions have been moved and passed by the House for the completion of the project but to no avail;

Cognizant that the completion of Abuja-Kaduna-Kano road will greatly improve the safety of travellers, reduce number of accidents and ease traffic congestion;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government, through the Ministry of Works to urgently prioritize the completion of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road by directing immediate release of funds and ensuring the enforcement of strict timelines for its completion;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately commence the temporarily rehabilitation of the major pot holes in the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Works and relevant agencies to ensure the speedy completion of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road and report within four (4) weeks;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Appropriations to make budgetary provision for the completion of the road in 2025 budget estimates;
- (v) also mandate the Committee on Works to invite the Minister of Works to explain the delay in the completion of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road Project;
- (vi) further mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Hussaini Mohammed Jallo — Igabi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:

“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to monitor the construction of the Abuja - Kaduna - Kano road” (*Hon. Makki Abubakar Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road is one of the most significant highways in Nigeria, connecting the nation's capital, Abuja, to the key Northern cities of North West and North East States;

Also noted that this road serves as a critical artery for trade, transportation, and National Integration as such needs Urgent Intervention;

Further noted that the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road were first captured in Nigeria's 2018 Appropriation Act under the Buhari Administration with the aim of addressing its worsening condition but progress has been slow and significant portions of the road remain incomplete;

Worried that the deteriorating state of the road, coupled with slow construction progress has created multiple hazards, making it one of the most dangerous highways in the country today, which has become a prime target for kidnappers and armed robbers, who exploit the delays and breakdowns usually experienced on the road to attack stranded travellers and has become a death trap for travellers going to the North Western States of Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Zamfara States as well as North Eastern States of Yobe, Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe;

Also worried that due to the poor condition of the roads, vehicles especially trailers, frequently breakdown, blocking major portions of the road for extended periods, leading to severe traffic with vehicles stuck for hours, forcing so many road users to spend their night on the road;

Disturbed that the economic Impact of these delays is significant, with businesses losing millions of Naira due to delayed deliveries and increased transportation costs, affecting both local and national commerce;

Aware that timely intervention and completion of this project will restore public confidence in the ability of government to deliver critical infrastructure and reduce the insecurity that has gripped the region;

Also aware that several Motions have been moved and passed by the House for the completion of the project but to no avail;

Cognizant that the completion of Abuja-Kaduna-Kano road will greatly improve the safety of travellers, reduce number of accidents and ease traffic congestion;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government, through the Ministry of Works to urgently prioritize the completion of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road by directing immediate release of funds and ensuring the enforcement of strict timelines for its completion;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately commence the temporarily rehabilitation of the major pot holes in the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Works and relevant agencies to ensure the speedy completion of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road and report within four (4) weeks;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Appropriations to make budgetary provision for the completion of the road in 2025 budget estimates;
- (v) also mandate the Committee on Works to invite the Minister of Works to explain the delay in the completion of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road Project;

- (vi) further mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance;
 - (vii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to monitor the construction of the Abuja - Kaduna - Kano road (**HR. 110/10/2024**).
- (ii) ***Need for the Reconstruction of Dengi - Jarmai - Bashar Bridge, Submerged Due to Torrential Rainfall:***
Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi (*Kanke/Pankshine/Kanam 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 for the Reconstruction of Dengi - Jarmai - Bashar Bridge, Submerged Due to Torrential Rainfall:

The House:

Notes that on Sunday, 6 and Monday, 7 October, 2024, the famous Dengi-Jarmai-Bashar bridge in Kanam Local Government Area of Plateau State was submerged and farmlands completely washed out due to torrential rainfall, severing critical links between numerous communities, markets, and neighboring States including Jos the Plateau State capital, Bauchi, and Gombe respectively;

Also notes that this catastrophic event necessitates immediate attention from the Federal Government to restore connectivity and mitigate socioeconomic disruptions;

Aware that Kanam Local Government Area, with its headquarters in Dengi, plays a vital role in connecting Northern Nigeria and submerged bridge has isolated several communities, hindering access to essential services, markets, and economic opportunities;

Worried that the consequences of the aforesaid has led to —

- (i) economic disruption, loss of trade and commerce between connected States and communities,
- (ii) social Isolation, restricted movement and access to essential services.
- (iii) security concerns, potential increase in crime and insecurity due to disrupted economic activities;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected communities;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to as a matter of urgency, commence the immediate reconstruction of the bridge in order to restore critical connectivity for economic growth and social interaction, address potential security concerns arising from disrupted economic and mitigate suffering of affected

communities (*Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi — Kanke/Pankshin/Kanam Federal Constituency*)

Agreed to.

(HR. 111/19/2024).

Motion referred to the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

(iii) Need to Urge the Executive Arm of Government to Comply with Section 11 (1) (b) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007:

Hon. Clement Jimbo (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency and 235 Others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 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 Urge the Executive Arm of Government to Comply with Section 11 (1) (b) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007:

The House:

Notes that the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 provides for the prudent management of the nation's resources, ensures long term macroeconomic stability of the national economy, secures greater accountability and transparency in fiscal operations within a medium term fiscal policy framework and the establishment of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission to ensure the promotion and enforcement of the nation's economic objectives and for related matters;

Also notes that section 11 (1) (b) stipulates that the federal government must, not later than four months before the commencement of the next financial year, cause to be prepared and laid before the National Assembly an MTEF for the next three financial years;

Worried that section 88 and 89 of the 1999 Constitution as well as Section 30 (1) of Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, specifically, section 88 (1) stipulates that subject to other provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), each House of the National Assembly shall have the power, by passing resolutions, to direct, or cause to be directed, an investigation into any matter or thing with respect to which it has power to make laws, and into the conduct of affairs of any person, authority, ministry of government department charged or intended to be charged with the duty of or responsibility for executing of administrating laws enacted by the National Assembly and for disbursing or administrating monies appropriated or to be appropriated by the National Assembly;

Also worried that the time the National Assembly requires to exercise its functions as enshrined in section 88(2)(b) is technically being taken away by the non-compliance of section 11 (1) (b) of FRA 2007 by Executive Arm of Government;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to comply with section 11 (1) (b) and submit to the National Assembly 2025 Budget Proposal without further delays;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on National Planning and Economic Development, Appropriations, and Finance to ensure compliance within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Clement Jimbo — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 provides for the prudent management of the nation's resources, ensures long term macroeconomic stability of the national economy, secures greater accountability and transparency in fiscal operations within a medium term fiscal policy framework and the establishment of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission to ensure the promotion and enforcement of the nation's economic objectives and for related matters;

Also noted that section 11 (1) (b) stipulates that the federal government must, not later than four months before the commencement of the next financial year, cause to be prepared and laid before the National Assembly an MTEF for the next three financial years;

Worried that section 88 and 89 of the 1999 Constitution as well as Section 30 (1) of Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, specifically, section 88 (1) stipulates that subject to other provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), each House of the National Assembly shall have the power, by passing resolutions, to direct, or cause to be directed, an investigation into any matter or thing with respect to which it has power to make laws, and into the conduct of affairs of any person, authority, ministry of government department charged or intended to be charged with the duty of or responsibility for executing of administrating laws enacted by the National Assembly and for disbursing or administrating monies appropriated or to be appropriated by the National Assembly;

Also worried that the time the National Assembly requires to exercise its functions as enshrined in section 88(2)(b) is technically being taken away by the non-compliance of section 11 (1) (b) of FRA 2007 by Executive Arm of Government;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to comply with section 11 (1) (b) and submit to the National Assembly 2025 Budget Proposal without further delays;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on National Planning and Economic Development, Appropriations, and Finance to ensure compliance within two (2) weeks (**HR. 112/10/2024**).

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (4) to enable it take more than 3 matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

- (iv) ***Destruction of Homes, Shops, and Businesses in Kuri and Other Villages, Due to Recent***

Heavy Downpour and Storms in Yamaltu and Deba Local Government Areas, Gombe State:

Hon. Inuwa Garba (*Yamaltu/Deba 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.

Destruction of Homes, Shops, and Businesses in Kuri and Other Villages, Due to Recent Heavy Downpour and Storms in Yamaltu and Deba Local Government Areas, Gombe State:

The House:

Notes with grave concern the recent devastating heavy downpour and storm that swept through Kuri and several other villages in Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency, Gombe State, causing widespread destruction of homes, shops, and businesses;

Aware that Kuri, known for hosting one of the largest markets in Gombe State, and a significant hub of commerce and business activities, which has now been severely impacted, leaving many families and business owners in a state of despair and financial loss;

Disturbed that the magnitude of the destruction has left many residents homeless, jobless and without means of livelihood, further worsening the socio-economic challenges of the affected communities;

Concerned that the victims of this natural disaster are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, to rebuild their lives and restore normalcy in the affected areas;

Recognizes the importance of federal agencies and relevant bodies in providing prompt interventions in such disaster situations, to alleviate the sufferings of the victims;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to urgently provide assistance in the form of relief materials to the victims of the storm and downpour in Kuri and other affected communities;
- (ii) call on the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to intervene by providing necessary materials, including building materials, food items, and other essential relief materials, to support the victims in rebuilding their homes and businesses;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently come to the rescue of the victims by deploying emergency response teams and provide immediate relief materials to the affected communities;
- (iv) also call on the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC) to intervene by providing relief materials and support to the victims, as part of its mandate to assist affected communities;

- (v) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Inuwa Garba — Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 113/10/2024).

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

- (v) ***Need for Relief Materials for Victims of Flood Disaster in Illela and Gwadabawa Local Government Areas, Sokoto State:***

Hon. Bello Isa Ambarura (*Illela/Gwadabawa 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 for Relief Materials for Victims of Flood Disaster in Illela and Gwadabawa Local Government Areas, Sokoto State:

The House:

Notes that this year's flooding has almost affected all the Local Government Areas in Sokoto state, with Illela and Gwadabawa being the worst hit;

Also notes that the destruction caused by the flood is severe, with hundreds of houses and farmlands destroyed, leaving people homeless, it has also wipe out farmlands leading to food shortages in the affected communities;

Concerned that the extent of the destruction caused by the devastating floods in Illela/Gwadabawa has adversely affected most communities like Kalunalo, Araba, Lakida, Gatti, Lafani, Garu, Gaidau, G/Katta, Dana, S/gari, Mammarfe, Gigage, and many others;

Also concerned that despite the efforts of the State Government and my office to ameliorate the suffering of victims of the flooding in Illela Local Government Area, it has not adequately addressed the food crisis and health challenges being faced by the victims;

Worried that sources of livelihood has been destroyed by the flood and many towns and villages submerged by water while food crops such as millet, sorghum, rice, beans, etc. have been washed away by the flood;

Also worried that, if urgent attention is not given to the victims by providing relief materials, the situation will degenerate to unimaginable catastrophe and loss of lives in the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to as matter of urgency provide relief materials to the flood victims in Illela/Gwadabawa to alleviate their sufferings;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bello Isah Ambarauwa — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 114/10/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

- (vi) ***Need to Suspend the Recent Increase in the Cost of Petrol and Cooking Gas in the Country and Provide a Stop - Gap:***
Hon. Kingsley Chinda (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency and Ninety Others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 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 Suspend the Recent Increase in the Cost of Petrol and Cooking Gas in the Country and Provide a Stop - Gap:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria, as an oil-producing nation, has historically relied on petroleum products and cooking gas (LPG) as essential sources of energy for both domestic and industrial purposes;

Concerned that in recent months, the prices of petrol and cooking gas have skyrocketed and continue to so do, creating an unsustainable financial burden on ordinary Nigerians and exacerbating the cost of living;

Aware that the removal of fuel subsidies, coupled with global oil price volatility and the depreciation of the Naira, has contributed significantly to the rising cost of petrol at the pump and cooking gas for households;

Worried that the escalating fuel and gas prices are impacting the cost of transportation, food, essential goods and healthcare, further increasing inflation and pushing many families into deeper financial hardship;

Also concerned that businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), are struggling to manage their operational costs due to increased fuel prices, threatening economic stability and job security;

Acknowledges that the Federal Government has previously announced plans to repair domestic refineries and boost local refining capacity to address some of these issues but has yet to deliver significant results in this regard;

Mindful that the rising cost of petrol and cooking gas poses a significant threat to the livelihood of millions of Nigerians and unchecked inflationary pressure caused by the

increased prices can lead to social unrest, increased poverty rates, and negative long-term economic effects;

Also worried that unless urgent and pragmatic steps are taken to control the rising cost of petrol and cooking gas, the Nation will go into economic crisis leading to negative outcomes like increased crime rate and mortality rate;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Executive Arm of Government to reverse the recent Pump Price hike and take immediate steps to stabilise petrol and cooking gas prices through targeted interventions such as temporary price relief measures, tax reductions, or subsidies on LPG for low-income households;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Ministry of Petroleum Resources and other relevant agencies to expedite the repair/maintenance of domestic refineries and increase local refining capacity as a stop-gap measure to reduce the dependence on imported refined petroleum products;
- (iii) also urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to implement monetary policies that will mitigate the adverse effects of fuel price hikes on inflation, particularly with regards to essential goods and services;
- (iv) encourage the Federal Government to explore alternative energy sources and diversify the country's energy mix to reduce reliance on petrol and gas, promoting renewable energy solutions that are more sustainable and affordable in the long term;
- (v) further urge State Governments to adopt policies that alleviate the financial burden on their citizens, such as waiving taxes or levies on transportation and goods affected by high fuel costs;
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Kingsley Ogundu Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency and Ninety Others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

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

“mandate the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives on the Petroleum Industry to look into the matter and report within three (3) weeks” (*Hon. Olumide Osoba — Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria, as an oil-producing nation, has historically relied on petroleum products and cooking gas (LPG) as essential sources of energy for both domestic and industrial purposes;

Concerned that in recent months, the prices of petrol and cooking gas have skyrocketed and continue to so do, creating an unsustainable financial burden on ordinary Nigerians and exacerbating the cost of living;

Aware that the removal of fuel subsidies, coupled with global oil price volatility and the depreciation of the Naira, has contributed significantly to the rising cost of petrol at the pump and cooking gas for households;

Worried that the escalating fuel and gas prices are impacting the cost of transportation, food, essential goods and healthcare, further increasing inflation and pushing many families into deeper financial hardship;

Also concerned that businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), are struggling to manage their operational costs due to increased fuel prices, threatening economic stability and job security;

Acknowledged that the Federal Government has previously announced plans to repair domestic refineries and boost local refining capacity to address some of these issues but has yet to deliver significant results in this regard;

Mindful that the rising cost of petrol and cooking gas poses a significant threat to the livelihood of millions of Nigerians and unchecked inflationary pressure caused by the increased prices can lead to social unrest, increased poverty rates, and negative long-term economic effects;

Also worried that unless urgent and pragmatic steps are taken to control the rising cost of petrol and cooking gas, the Nation will go into economic crisis leading to negative outcomes like increased crime rate and mortality rate;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Executive Arm of Government to reverse the recent Pump Price hike and take immediate steps to stabilise petrol and cooking gas prices through targeted interventions such as temporary price relief measures, tax reductions, or subsidies on LPG for low-income households;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Ministry of Petroleum Resources and other relevant agencies to expedite the repair/maintenance of domestic refineries and increase local refining capacity as a stop-gap measure to reduce the dependence on imported refined petroleum products;
- (iii) also urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to implement monetary policies that will mitigate the adverse effects of fuel price hikes on inflation, particularly with regards to essential goods and services;
- (iv) encourage the Federal Government to explore alternative energy sources and diversify the country's energy mix to reduce reliance on petrol and gas, promoting renewable energy solutions that are more sustainable and affordable in the long term;
- (v) further urge State Governments to adopt policies that alleviate the financial burden on their citizens, such as waiving taxes or levies on transportation and goods affected by high fuel costs;
- (vi) mandate the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives on the Petroleum Industry to look into the matter and report within three (3) weeks (**HR. 115/10/2024**).

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigeria Sports Arbitration Tribunal (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1575).
- (2) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1576).
- (3) Institute of Chartered Biochemist and Molecular Biologist of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1164).
- (4) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1638).
- (5) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1639).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1641).
- (7) Petroleum Industry Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1648).
- (8) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Ijero Ekiti, Ekiti State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1642).
- (9) Federal University of Solid Minerals Resources Development, Bukuru Gyel, Plateau State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1688).
- (10) Federal University of Nursing and Midwifery, Fobur, Plateau State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1689).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1696).
- (12) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1698).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1699).
- (14) Federal Polytechnics Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1815).
- (15) National Broadcasting Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1816).
- (16) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1817).
- (17) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1818).
- (18) Digital Rights and Freedom Bill, 2024 (HB.1739).
- (19) Sea Fisheries Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1740).
- (20) Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Omerelu, River State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1741).

8. Presentation of Report

Committee on Police Affairs:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigeria Police Act, 2020 to Review the Service Years of Police Personnel, improve the experience and expertise of the Police Workforce, retain

experienced Personnel and reduce the Cost of Training and Recruiting new Officers, improve the Morale Performance and Job satisfaction, and Address the shortage of Experienced Police Personnel and for Related Matters (HB. 1461)” (*Hon. Makki Abubakar Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Usung Atiat, Ukanafun LGA, Akwa Ibom State and for Related Matters (HB.957) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Usung Atiat, Ukanafun LGA, Akwa Ibom State and for Related Matters (HB.957) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ute Ukpu to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB.105) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ute Ukpu to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB.105) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Agriculture, Agila, Benue State, to provide full-time courses of Agriculture, Teaching, Instruction and Training in the Sciences, Social Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Applied Sciences, Management and Humanities; and carry out research, innovation, development and adaptation of teaching techniques, and for Related Matters, 2024 (HB. 11) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Agriculture, Agila, Benue State, to provide full-time courses of Agriculture, Teaching, Instruction and Training in the Sciences, Social Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Applied Sciences, Management and Humanities; and carry out research, innovation, development and adaptation of teaching techniques, and for Related Matters, 2024 (HB. 11) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

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 the Federal University of Agriculture, Fiditi - Oyo, Oyo State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1269) — Third 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 the Federal University of Agriculture, Fiditi - Oyo, Oyo State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1269) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

13. **A Bill for an Act to provide for Establishment of Federal University of Technology, Ilaro to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (SB. 345) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to provide for Establishment of Federal University of Technology, Ilaro to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (SB. 345) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy 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

14. **A Bill for an Act to Upgrade the College of Health Sciences and Technology, Tsafe, Zamfara State to Federal University of Health Sciences and Technology, Tsafe, Zamfara State to Provide Full-Time Courses in Health Sciences and Technology and Other Fields of Study and produce high quality Medical Professionals with broad knowledge, skills and value, strengthen institutional capacity for Disease Control and Surveillance as well as bridging the gap in Medical Research and make provision for the General Administration of the University and for Related Matters (SB. 161) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Upgrade the College of Health Sciences and Technology, Tsafe, Zamfara State to Federal University of Health Sciences and Technology, Tsafe, Zamfara State to Provide Full-Time Courses in Health Sciences and Technology and Other Fields of Study and produce high quality Medical Professionals with broad knowledge, skills and value, strengthen institutional capacity for Disease Control and Surveillance as well as bridging the gap in Medical Research and make provision for the General Administration of the University and for Related Matters (SB. 161) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy 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.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture, Kagarko, Kaduna State and for Related Matters (HB. 1368) — Second Reading**
- Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture, Kagarko, Kaduna State and for Related Matters (HB. 1368) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Gabriel Saleh Zock — Kachia/Kagarko 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.

16. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the National Institute for Film and Media Technology Ukawu, Ebonyi State and for Related Matters (HB.1755) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the National Institute for Film and Media Technology Ukawu, Ebonyi State and for Related Matters (HB.1755) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Kama Nkemkanma — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha 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 Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values.

17. Outstanding Bills from Preceding Assembly

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 17 of the Standing Orders, the House may, upon being re-gazetted or circulated, reconsider in the Committee of the Whole, without commencing *de-novo*, the Bill(s) —

- (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,
- (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;

Also notes that the under-listed Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly;

- (i) Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Institutions Bill, 2024 (HB.1598),
- (ii) Federal University of Health Sciences and Technology, Kankia, Katsina State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1582),
- (iii) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1386),
- (iv) Nigerian Health Infrastructure Development Bank (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.816), and
- (v) Nigeria Police Force College, Training School and Institution (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2023 (HB.1794);

Aware that the Bills were read for the first time as HB. 1598, HB. 1582, HB. 1386 and HB. 816 respectively;

Resolves to:

Re-commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

18. Need to Investigate the Refusal of NNPC Exploration and Production Limited (NEPL) to Remit the Statutory 3% Actual Annual Operating Expenditure to Afam Host Community Development Trust Fund

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Section 240 (1) and (2) of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021, establishes a Host Communities Development Trust Fund and each Settlor or Operator is to make an annual contribution of an amount equaling 3% of its actual operating expenditure to the Host Communities Development Trust fund;

Also notes that the NNPC Exploration and Production Limited operating within the Afam Oil Field OML 11 has neglected, refused and ignored to make any remittance to the Afam Host Community Development Trust Fund;

Further notes that the refusal and neglect is a contravention of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 which is a product of the National Assembly and a Law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Worried that the continued neglect and refusal to remit the Statutory percentage by the NNPC Exploration and Production Limited is capable of breaching peace, hinder oil and Gas exploration activities and negatively impact on the nation's commonwealth and Revenue;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Host Communities to investigate the refusal of NNPC Exploration and Production Limited (NEPL) to comply with the provisions of Section 240 (2) of the Petroleum Industry Act as it relates to Afam Community and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Felix Uche Nwaeke — Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In the Prayer, *leave out* the words “mandate the Committee on Host Communities”, and *insert* the words “Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee” (*Hon. Bello Isa Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “Host Communities”, *insert* the words “Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Petroleum Resources (Downstream)” (*Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka Ayokunle — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (iii) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “Host Communities”, *insert* the words “and Petroleum Resources (Upstream)” (*Hon. Whingan Sesi — Badagry Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 240 (1) and (2) of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021, establishes a Host Communities Development Trust Fund and each Settlor or Operator is to make an annual contribution of an amount equaling 3% of its actual operating expenditure to the Host Communities Development Trust fund;

Also noted that the NNPC Exploration and Production Limited operating within the Afam Oil Field OML 11 has neglected, refused and ignored to make any remittance to the Afam Host Community Development Trust Fund;

Further noted that the refusal and neglect is a contravention of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 which is a product of the National Assembly and a Law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Worried that the continued neglect and refusal to remit the Statutory percentage by the NNPC Exploration and Production Limited is capable of breaching peace, hinder oil and Gas exploration activities and negatively impact on the nation's commonwealth and Revenue;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Host Communities, and Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to investigate the refusal of NNPC Exploration and Production Limited (NEPL) to comply with the provisions of Section 240 (2) of the Petroleum Industry Act as it relates to Afam Community and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 116/10/2024**).

19. Need to Address Erosion Threat to Old Sapele - Agbor Road at Obinomba, Umukwata Kingdom, Ukwuani Local Government Area, Delta State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Old Sapele - Agbor Road at the Obinomba and Umukwata Kingdom sections in Ukwuani Local Government Area of Delta State serves as a critical route for transportation, connecting communities and promoting economic activities within the area;

Also notes that the road, which was tarred to facilitate vehicular movement, is severely threatened by erosion, which has almost destroyed significant portions of the road, making it dangerous for road users and posing serious risks to nearby properties and buildings;

Cognizant that if the menace of the erosion threat is not addressed, it will not only destroy roads but also threaten the lives, and properties of residents in the surrounding communities, thus exacerbating an already precarious situation;

Worried that the continued deterioration of the Old Sapele - Agbor Road will disrupt economic activities, hinder access to markets, schools, and healthcare facilities, and significantly increase the hardship faced by residents who depend on this road for daily movement;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately conduct a technical assessment of the erosion situation along the Old Sapele - Agbor Road at Obinomba and Umukwata Kingdom sections to prevent further damage to the road; and

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works and FERMA to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to make adequate provision for the erosion control and rehabilitation of Obinomba and Umukwata sections of the Old Sapele - Agbor Road in the 2025 budget estimates (*Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 117/10/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and FERMA, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

20. Call on Airline Operators to Compensate Passengers for Flight Cancellations and Delays

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the frequency and severity of flight delays in the aviation sector in Nigeria, which are causing disruption and distress to air travellers;

Concerned about the statistics published by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), which indicate a persistently high level of delays and cancellations at Nigerian airports. NCAA's latest report, published in July 2023, revealed that 55% of 18,288 domestic flights were delayed or cancelled between January and March 2023, a previous report from the same source, published in July 2022, showed that 64% of 17,137 domestic flights were delayed or cancelled between April and June 2022;

Worried that the continuous delays and cancellations can result in extra transportation expenses, missed appointments, lost revenue, and eventually give passengers emotional stress and frustration;

Also worried that flight disruptions can disproportionately affect persons with disabilities, elderly, and those with limited financial resources, posing unique challenges such as difficulties in obtaining assistance;

Aware that the aviation industry has been severely impacted by economic conditions, including inflation, supply chain disruptions, and high fuel prices;

Believes that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), requires the government to protect the rights of its citizens, including the right to compensation in the event of a flight delay, and that airlines should be held accountable for any failure to meet this obligation and that passengers should be compensated if a flight is delayed for reasons outside of their control;

Commend the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) for introducing penalties for airlines cancelling or delaying flights; however, the penalties are inadequate to address the inconveniences experienced, as affected passengers should be compensated to prevent airlines from providing substandard service;

Cognizant of the need for Airlines to make its policies on refunds clear and transparent so that passengers can make an informed choice about their travel arrangements thereby promoting accountability and fairness in the industry;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace to enforce refund and compensation for passengers by airline operators in the event of flight delays or cancellation; and

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Aviation to ensure compliance (*Hon. Chinedu Emeka Martins — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

*Debate adjourned to enable the **Committee on Rules and Business** ascertain if there is an existing motion on the same subject matter.*

21. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 17 October, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.41 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker