



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 19 February, 2025

1. The House met at 11.22 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House sang the National Anthem and recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 18 February, 2025.

The Second Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

(i) **Visitors in the Gallery:**

Mr Speaker announced the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Staff and Students of Jewel Model Schools, Kubwa, Abuja;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Christ Academy International, Gwagwalada, Abuja.

(ii) **Bereavement:**

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Julius Pondi (*Burutu Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Senator, Edwin Kiagbodo Clark (*Delta Southern Senatorial District, 1983*) who died on Monday, 17 February, 2025, at the age of 97.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

5. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from McDIBBs & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Kachikwu Chijindu Kandozie, on his dismissal from the service of the Consumer Protection Council (CPC), was presented and laid by Hon. Ngozi Okolie (*Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Ogboinbiri Community, Bayelsa State, on alleged non-payment of their land rent by Oando Energy Resources Plc, was presented and laid by Hon. Ambiowei Rodney Ebikebina (*Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Need for National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to Exercise Caution against Hurting Businesses of Innocent Traders During its Operations in Drug Markets:*

Hon. Afam Victor Ogene (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 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 National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to Exercise Caution against Hurting Businesses of Innocent Traders During its Operations in Drug Markets:

The House:

Notes the ongoing efforts by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), to crack down on merchants of fake and counterfeit medicines;

Aware that NAFDAC recently sealed medicine markets in Idumota, Lagos State, Ariaria, in Aba, Abia State and Onitsha, in Anambra State;

Also aware that the ongoing enforcement operations by NAFDAC at these drugs markets is to rid the country of counterfeit and substandard medicines;

Concerned, however, that many people operating in the affected markets have complained about the blanket disruption of businesses, including those of innocent people, causing significant losses of goods and money;

Worried by the reports that NAFDAC sealed the affected markets and denied the traders and their leadership entry, while it's officials proceeded to break into shops, carting away pharmaceuticals, without owners of such shops being allowed to witness the operation and take inventory;

Also worried that such a brazen approach and unilateral break-in and confiscation of the goods from the markets, without allowing the leadership of the markets and the owners of the goods to witness the process, would make accountability difficult and also dents the integrity of the operation;

Disturbed by reports that some traders and Point of Sale (PoS) operators were forced to leave significant amounts of cash in their shops during the sudden raid and closure of the markets over the weekend, with no clear means of recovering their funds, leading to frustrations and bewilderment;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge NAFDAC to go about the assignment in adherence with global best practices, such that legitimate and innocent traders are not caught in the quagmire;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on NAFDAC to investigate these concerns, with a view to ensure that livelihoods of innocent vendors engaged in legitimate businesses in the affected markets are not unfairly impacted (*Hon. Afam Victor Ogene — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (i) (Hon. Hameed Adewale Waheed — Agege Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the ongoing efforts by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), to crack down on merchants of fake and counterfeit medicines;

Aware that NAFDAC recently sealed medicine markets in Idumota, Lagos State, Ariaria, in Aba, Abia State and Onitsha, in Anambra State;

Also aware that the ongoing enforcement operations by NAFDAC at these drugs markets is to rid the country of counterfeit and substandard medicines;

Concerned, however, that many people operating in the affected markets have complained about the blanket disruption of businesses, including those of innocent people, causing significant losses of goods and money;

Worried by the reports that NAFDAC sealed the affected markets and denied the traders and their leadership entry, while it's officials proceeded to break into shops, carting away pharmaceuticals, without owners of such shops being allowed to witness the operation and take inventory;

Also worried that such a brazen approach and unilateral break-in and confiscation of the goods from the markets, without allowing the leadership of the markets and the owners of the goods to witness the process, would make accountability difficult and also dents the integrity of the operation;

Disturbed by reports that some traders and Point of Sale (PoS) operators were forced to leave significant amounts of cash in their shops during the sudden raid and closure of the markets over the weekend, with no clear means of recovering their funds, leading to frustrations and bewilderment;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on NAFDAC to investigate these concerns, with a view to ensure that livelihoods of innocent vendors engaged in legitimate businesses in the affected markets are not unfairly impacted (**HR. 42/02/2025**).

- (ii) ***Need to Maintain Peace, Order and Rule of Law in Osun State in View of the Recent Happenings which has Led to Death of Six Persons and Injuries to Scores of Others:***
Hon. Bamidele Salam (Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency and Eight 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 Maintain Peace, Order and Rule of Law in Osun State in View of the Recent Happenings which has Led to Death of Six Persons and Injuries to Scores of Others:

The House:

Notes that on Monday, 17 February, 2025, violence broke out in several parts of Osun State as a result of attempt to take over the administration of local governments by officials who were sacked by court judgment in November 2022;

Disturbed that the sacked officials are now breaking the gates of their respective local government secretariat to forcefully take over the government of the local government without any court order;

Also notes that the Governor of Osun State as the Chief Security officer of the State had raised an alarm on Sunday, 16 February, 2025, about an imminent threat to peace and security in the state while calling on the Inspector General of Police and other heads of Security formations to take proactive steps to forestall the violence;

Concerned that if the current trend resort to self-help by political actors and it is not nipped in the bud, it might encourage citizens to do same in the face of perceived rights and privileges;

Also concerned that the preventable violence which happened in Osun has led to the death of six persons while scores of others have suffered severe injuries and presently receiving treatment in various hospitals;

Worried that if prompt action is not taken against this lawlessness and arbitrariness, it may escalate into a more serious security challenges in Osun;

Aware that by virtue of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the most fundamental objective and primary purpose of any government shall be the security and welfare of the people;

Also aware that as the representatives of the people, the House has the duty and responsibility to ensure safety of lives and properties in Nigeria;

Assured that the Nigerian Police, the Department of State Services (DSS) and other security agencies have the capacity to restore normalcy to all the local governments of Osun State;

Also assured that if Attorney-General of the Federation as the chief law officer of the country can advise the parties, the tension in Osun State would be doused;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of persons killed in the course of the crisis;
- (ii) condemn any resort to self-help, violence, killings and harassment by individuals and political interests in Osun State;

- (iii) call on the Inspector-General of Police, Director-General, Department of State Services (DSS) and other security heads to ensure normalcy and order is restored to all local governments in Osun State;
- (iv) urge the Attorney-General of the Federation to properly advise all parties involved in the dispute, in the control of local governments in Osun State as to the true position of the law and encourage aggrieved parties to seek judicial enforcement of rights rather than use of force (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbendore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency and Eight Others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out Prayers (i) and (iii) (Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka Ayokunle — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“set up an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the crisis in Osun State and report within three (3) weeks” (Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka Ayokunle — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Monday, 17 February, 2025, violence broke out in several parts of Osun State as a result of attempt to take over the administration of local governments by officials who were sacked by court judgment in November 2022;

Disturbed that the sacked officials are now breaking the gates of their respective local government secretariat to forcefully take over the government of the local government without any court order;

Also noted that the Governor of Osun State as the Chief Security officer of the State had raised an alarm on Sunday, 16 February, 2025, about an imminent threat to peace and security in the state while calling on the Inspector General of Police and other heads of Security formations to take proactive steps to forestall the violence;

Concerned that if the current trend resort to self-help by political actors and it is not nipped in the bud, it might encourage citizens to do same in the face of perceived rights and privileges;

Also concerned that the preventable violence which happened in Osun has led to the death of six persons while scores of others have suffered severe injuries and presently receiving treatment in various hospitals;

Worried that if prompt action is not taken against this lawlessness and arbitrariness, it may escalate into a more serious security challenges in Osun;

Aware that by virtue of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the most fundamental objective and primary purpose of any government shall be the security and welfare of the people;

Also aware that as the representatives of the people, the House has the duty and responsibility to ensure safety of lives and properties in Nigeria;

Assured that the Nigerian Police, the Department of State Services (DSS) and other security agencies have the capacity to restore normalcy to all the local governments of Osun State;

Also assured that if Attorney-General of the Federation as the chief law officer of the country can advise the parties, the tension in Osun State would be doused;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of persons killed in the course of the crisis;
- (ii) urge the Attorney-General of the Federation to properly advise all parties involved in the dispute, in the control of local governments in Osun State as to the true position of the law and encourage aggrieved parties to seek judicial enforcement of rights rather than use of force;
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the crisis in Osun State and report within three (3) weeks (**HR. 43/02/2025**).

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Investigate the Crisis in Osun State:

Mr Speaker announced membership of the Committee as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Ahmed Idris | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Fredrick Agbedi | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Ahmad Jaha Usman | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Kabiru Ahmadu | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Raji Tasir Olawale | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Nnaji Nnolim John | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Aguye Suleiman Danladi | — | <i>Member</i> |

(iii) *Need to Address the Incessant Parking of Petroleum/Articulated Vehicles on the Road in Bida, Niger State:*

Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi (*Bida/Gbako/Katcha 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 Address the Incessant Parking of Petroleum/Articulated Vehicles on the Road in Bida, Niger State:

The House:

Notes that concerned residents and youth groups in Bida have written to the Speaker of the House of Representatives through my office their reservations over the indiscriminate parking of petroleum and articulated vehicles along major roads in the town which has resulted in severe safety and environmental risks;

Also notes the recent tragic tanker explosion at Diko Junction in Niger State, which claimed numerous lives and destroyed properties, highlights the grave danger posed by improperly parked tankers and the urgent need for regulatory enforcement to prevent similar occurrences;

Aware that associations, including Nupe Excel, Landzun Youth Development Association, Bida 70s, and Eid Youth Association Bida, have raised alarm over the dangers posed by these parked tankers, including increase in road accidents, environmental hazards from flammable substances, traffic congestion, and growing security concerns;

Also aware that the Niger State Government in a bid to proffer lasting solution and mitigate the danger posed by these articulated vehicles has in spite of endless needs competing for its scarce resources embarked on the construction of a 44 kms dual carriage ring road - Bypass with complimentary infrastructures including a Trailer Transit Park around Bida;

Acknowledges that the abandonment of the Mokwa-Makera-Tegina-Birnin Gwari - Kaduna route due to activities of bandits, kidnappers and the deteriorating nature of the road which was once adjudged as the most economically viable road in West Africa has resulted to more traffic on the Bida - Agaie - Lapai - Lambata - Suleja route;

Concerned that the slow pace of the reconstruction of the Bida-Suleja road in spite of an alternative funding source through the Road Infrastructure tax credit Scheme has contributed hugely to the indiscriminate parking of tankers along major roads on the route, thereby worsening traffic congestion and increasing the risk of accidents;

Also concerned that due to this hazardous situation, a tragic incident recently occurred in Bida where a tanker crushed a nursing mother to death while her husband suffered the loss of his legs; emphasizing the need to act urgently and decisively;

Worried that failure to act promptly can result to continuous threat to lives and properties given the volatile nature of petroleum products and the high volume of vehicular and pedestrian movement along the affected road;

Also worried that the continued presence of these tankers without proper regulatory enforcement hampers economic activities and threatens public order in Bida;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), and Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority to continuously engage and sensitize Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Petroleum Tanker Drivers Association (PTD), National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and other relevant stakeholders on the need to adhere to established safety standards and to also strictly enforce regulations relating to movement of articulated vehicles especially against indiscriminate parking of tankers along major roads in Bida;
- (ii) also call on the Federal Ministry of Works, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission and the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority to as a matter of urgency seek collaborative partnership with Niger State Government and interested private sector investors to provide well-structured parking facilities Trailer Transit Parks (TTP) in major towns along the route from Jebba to Suleja particularly in Bida and Lambata to ensure safety and smooth traffic flow;
- (iii) further call on the Federal Ministry of Works to prioritize and fast-track the ongoing

reconstruction of the Bida-Agaie-Lapai-Lambata-Siuleja road to ease vehicular movements, mitigate traffic congestion and reduce the need for tankers to park along major roads on the route;

- (iv) still call on the Executive Arm of Government through the office of the National Security Adviser and the Federal Ministry of Works to prioritize the security and reconstruction of the Mokwa-Makera-Tegina-Birnin Gwari-Kaduna Road;
- (v) also urge security agencies to enhance patrol and monitoring of these high-risk areas to prevent security breaches and possible threats to the lives of Sida residents;
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Works, Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Federal Roads Safety, Special Duties and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi — Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 44/02/2025).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Federal Road Safety, Special Duties, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

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) **Need to Intervene on the Constant Accidents on the Lokoja - Felele - Benin - Lagos Expressway:**

Hon. Danladi Suleiman Aguye (*Lokoja/Koton Karfi/Kogi 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 Intervene on the Constant Accidents on the Lokoja - Felele - Benin - Lagos Expressway:

The House:

Notes that, Lokoja which is the state capital of Kogi State borders with over ten (10) States, connecting the Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern region;

Also notes that, the major trunk road accommodates hundreds of vehicles on a daily basis connecting different destinations and in the wisdom of the State Government, under the leadership of the Executive Governor of Kogi State, the international market located along the road has been relocated with commencement of construction in a new and more conducive site, as part of urgent efforts to de-congest the road and curtail threat to lives from

frequent accidents;

Aware that, Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) affirms the sanctity of the welfare and security of the citizens as a core purpose of government;

Worried that, within 2025 alone, over ten accidents have occurred on the Lokoja - Nataco - Felele expressway, leading to the avoidable and sad loss of many precious lives, especially students;

Also worried that, these accidents in the said road leave many others sustained at various degrees of injuries including incapacitation in significant numbers;

Concerned that, on Monday, 17 February, 2025, a very tragic accident occurred involving about ten (10) students of the Federal University of Lokoja alongside the driver conveying them as an articulated truck carrying woods rammed into the school shuttle bus conveying students, leading to the loss of their lives;

Also concerned that, along this particular route, many students of Kogi State Polytechnic and residents of Lokoja, neighbouring Felele and immediate communities or travelers have met their untimely death, on a regular basis;

Disturbed that, the tragic accident has become a reoccurring decimal and has put the residents of the area and travelers along the route in perpetual fear;

Also disturbed that, over speeding or reckless driving by truck and tanker drivers has been identified mainly as the cause of repeated accidents leading to loss of lives of people and travelers in the area;

Further disturbed that, if nothing is done to salvage the worrisome situation, it may result in a continued loss of innocent lives on a large scale;

Cognizant of the need that the speedy construction of the bypass, flyover bridge and expansion of the road is part of measures curtail further loss of innocent and productive lives on the two kilometres stretch on the highway and mitigation against future occurrence;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of all those who lost their precious lives in the accident;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government through the Federal Ministry of Works in collaboration with Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to expedite the expansion of the road and construct a flyover with complementary pedestrian bridges along the road for use by students and other citizens;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to direct the ban and restrict the movement of trailers and trucks within Lokoja and its metropolis to only night operations from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. in order to ensure safety and enhance traffic management;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Works, FERMA, Land Transport, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Danladi Suleiman Aguye — Lokoja/Kogi-K Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 45/02/2025).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

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

7. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)

Hon. Chinedu Ogah (*Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the non concurrence with his Bills and several others transmitted to the Senate. He therefore viewed this as a breach of his privilege and that of the House; and therefore urged that the matter be looked into.

Mr Speaker noted the matter and ordered the Clerk to interface with the Clerk, Senate to resolve the matter.

8. Presentation of Reports

(i) Committee on Health Institutions:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Orile, Lagos State and for Related Matters (HB. 1356)” (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Committee on Health Institutions:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Eket, Akwa Ibom State and for Related Matters (HB. 363)” (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Assembly Service Act (No. 63) 2014 and Enact the National Assembly Service Act, 2025 to provide for a clear Administrative Structure for the National Assembly Service, outlining the Qualifications for the Appointment of Clerks, Heads of Directorates of the National Assembly and the Secretary to the Commission, enhance Professionalism and Accountability within the National Assembly's Administrative Framework and for Related Matters (HB.2056) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Assembly Service Act (No. 63) 2014 and Enact the National Assembly Service Act, 2025 to provide for a clear Administrative Structure for the National Assembly Service, outlining the Qualifications for the Appointment of Clerks, Heads of Directorates of the National Assembly and the Secretary to the Commission, enhance Professionalism and Accountability within the National Assembly's Administrative Framework and for Related Matters (HB.2056) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Marcus Onobun — Esan Central/Esan West.Igueben Federal Constituency and one other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Public Service Matters.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Insurance Act, Cap. I 17 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Marine Insurance Act, Cap. M3 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Motor Vehicle (Third Party) Insurance Act, Cap. M22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the National Insurance Corporation of Nigeria, Act, Cap. N54, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Nigerian Reinsurance Corporation Act, Cap. N131, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Insurance Industry Reform Act, 2004 to Provide for a Comprehensive Legal and Regulatory Framework for Insurance Business in Nigeria and for Related matters (SB. 393) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Insurance Act, Cap. I 17 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Marine Insurance Act, Cap. M3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Motor Vehicle (Third Party) Insurance Act, Cap. M22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the National Insurance Corporation of Nigeria, Act, Cap. N54, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Nigerian Reinsurance Corporation Act, Cap. N131, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Insurance Industry Reform Act, 2004 to Provide for a Comprehensive Legal and Regulatory Framework for Insurance Business in Nigeria and for Related matters (SB. 393) 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.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to Provide for Establishment of an Electoral Offences Tribunal and ensure that all electoral matters are determined before swearing-in of the Elected Office Holders and for Related Matters (HB.1290) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by the House to the next legislative day to enable Committee on Rules and Business to ascertain if there is an existing Bill on the same subject.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, National Assembly Abuja and for Related matters (HB. 513) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Establish National Farm Settlements Agency to Promote Agricultural Development, ensure Food Security and Foster Economic Growth by Creating Agro-Allied Industrial Processing Zones, with a view to facilitate value addition in the Agricultural Sector and Promote Agribusiness Opportunities in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1347) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish National Farm Settlements Agency to Promote Agricultural Development, ensure Food Security and Foster Economic Growth by Creating Agro-Allied Industrial Processing Zones, with a view to facilitate value addition in the Agricultural Sector and Promote Agribusiness Opportunities in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1347) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Maruf Afolabi Afuape — Abeokuta South 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 Production and Services.

- 14. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to make Provision for Diaspora Voting and for Related Matters (HB.1396) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- 15. Resurgence of Banditry Attacks in Bukkuyum Local Government Area of Zamfara State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the level of insecurity as a result of banditry in Bukkuyum Local Government Area of Zamfara State has increased;

Aware that on 21 January 2025, bandits attacked Gwashi in Bukkuyum Local Government Area and burnt two military vehicles, similarly on 19 January 2025, bandits killed a young man and abducted seven persons in Nasarawa Burkullu and on 16 January 2025, abducted 29 women and 8 men in Kamaru village all in Bukkuyum Local Government Area of Zamfara State;

Also aware that on 9, January 2025, two (2) Community Protection Guards (CPG) were killed along Gurusu/Nasarawa Burkullu road when they were ambushed by bandits, on 6, January 2025, dozens of bandits/terrorists in three subgroups rode on motorcycles and sporadically shot and attacked Gana district in Bukkuyum Local Government Area of Zamfara State, abducting fifty (50) civilians (mostly old men, women, and children), killing, maiming many and looted foodstuffs, cattle, and cows before setting the district ablaze;

Informed that seven months prior to the January 6, 2025 attack, residents of Gana district in Bukkuyum Local Government Area of Zamfara State signed a peace deal with the armed group, paying millions of Naira as a protection levy to enable them cultivate their farms;

Further aware that the bandits hid in the forest between Bukkuyum and Anka Local Government Areas and launched a deadly attack on Adabka district in Bukkuyum Local Government Area weeks before the 6 January 2025 attack on Gana district, though the Joint Task Force lost personnel in the attack, but were able to repel the rampaging bandits;

Observes that due to the far distance of the military bases, Yashi, Ruwan Jema, and Kyaram wards in Bukkuyum Local Government Area are consistently attacked by bandits, thus, leading to the displacement of persons;

Concerned that due to lack of adequate military hardware, such as armoured personnel carriers (APCs) at the existing military bases in the area, bandits are having a field day perpetrating their dastardly act of killing, maiming and kidnapping;

Also concerned that due to the absence of military posts on Mayanchi-Junction-Gurusu-Gummi road, travellers on the road are currently at the mercy of bandits occupying the entire stretch of the road; Believes that the establishment of Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) by the Military in Yashi, Ruwan Jema, and Kyaram wards in Bukkuyum Local Government Area of Zamfara State, and equipping the Mopol Unit in Adabka district with sophisticated military hardware such as armoured personnel carriers (APCs), will make a significant difference in curbing banditry in all the communities in Bukkuyum Local Government Area, thereby ensuring adequate protection of lives and properties;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to provide relief materials to the displaced persons in the affected areas in Bukkuyum Local Government Area of Zamfara State;
- (ii) urge the Chiefs of Defence and Army Staff to urgently set up Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Yashi, Ruwan Jema and Kyaram wards in Bukkuyum Local Government Area of Zamfara State to curb banditry in the Area and enhance adequate security of lives and properties;
- (iii) commend the military for intensifying efforts towards curbing banditry in Zamfara State, the North West region, and the country in general;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Emergency, Disaster Preparedness, and Humanitarian Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi — Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 46/02/2025).

Motion referred to the Committees on Defence, Army, Emergency, and Disaster Preparedness and Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees (IDPs), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

16. Need to Appoint Additional Mandate Secretaries in the Federal Capital Territory for Adequate Representation of Area Councils in the Territory

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Mandate Secretaries are high-level Administrative Officials appointed by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to oversee specific areas of governance within the Federal Capital Territory such as the Ministers in the Federal Executive Council and Commissioners in the State Executive Council;

Also notes that Section 299 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that the Federal Capital Territory Abuja shall be treated as one of the States of the Federation for the purpose of participation in the nation's economic, political and social activities;

Aware that the President, through the Federal Capital Territory Minister, appoints Mandate Secretaries for the administration of the Federal Capital Territory, these appointments were made to reflect the geopolitical zones of the country only;

Also aware that the Federal Executive Council and the State Executive Council have State and Local Government Representation respectively in their cabinets which became necessary for Federal Capital Territory to be treated as if it were a State and should have Area Council Committee Representatives in the Federal Capital Territory;

Concerned that the current number of Mandate Secretaries may not be sufficient to meet the growing administrative tasks and governance needs of the rapidly expanding Federal Capital Territory population and development as well as give a sense of inclusivity to the people of the Federal Capital Territory;

Cognizant that additional Mandate Secretaries will enhance good governance, service delivery and adequate representation of Federal Capital Territory's people in policy coordination and implementation at the grassroots;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to appoint at least six additional Mandate Secretaries to enhance good governance and effective service delivery within the Federal Capital Territory;
- (ii) urge the President to appoint additional Mandate Secretaries from each of the Area Councils, who must be residents and with in-depth knowledge of the Area Councils they represent for effective administration of the Federal Capital Territory;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to ensure compliance (*Hon. Joshua Chinedu Obika — AMAC/Bwari Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Mandate Secretaries are high-level Administrative Officials appointed by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to oversee specific areas of governance within the Federal Capital Territory such as the Ministers in the Federal Executive Council and Commissioners in the State Executive Council;

Also noted that Section 299 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that the Federal Capital Territory Abuja shall be treated as one of the States of the Federation for the purpose of participation in the nation's economic, political and social activities;

Aware that the President, through the Federal Capital Territory Minister, appoints Mandate Secretaries for the administration of the Federal Capital Territory, these appointments were made to reflect the geopolitical zones of the country only;

Also aware that the Federal Executive Council and the State Executive Council have State and Local Government Representation respectively in their cabinets which became necessary for Federal Capital Territory to be treated as if it were a State and should have Area Council Committee Representatives in the Federal Capital Territory;

Concerned that the current number of Mandate Secretaries may not be sufficient to meet the growing administrative tasks and governance needs of the rapidly expanding Federal Capital Territory population and development as well as give a sense of inclusivity to the people of the Federal Capital Territory;

Cognizant that additional Mandate Secretaries will enhance good governance, service delivery and adequate representation of Federal Capital Territory's people in policy coordination and implementation at the grassroots;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to appoint at least six additional Mandate Secretaries to enhance good governance and effective service delivery within the Federal Capital Territory;
- (ii) urge the President to appoint additional Mandate Secretaries from each of the Area Councils, who must be residents and with in-depth knowledge of the Area Councils they represent for effective administration of the Federal Capital Territory;

- (iii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to ensure compliance (**HR. 47/02/2025**).

17. Need to Include Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas in the Amnesty Program

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Amnesty Program was established to address the grievances and reintegrate Ex-militants from the Niger Delta region into society;

Also notes that Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency in Delta State consists of three Local Government Areas, namely Ndokwa East, Ndokwa West, and Ukwuani, all of which are oil-producing regions;

Further notes that these Communities host Multinational Oil Companies such as the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC), Sterling Exploration and Energy Production Company (SEEPCO), Pillar Oil, Platform Oil Limited;

Concerned that the exclusion of Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency from the Amnesty Program is causing growing frustrations among the local population, potentially leading to severe social and economic unrest;

Worried that the Amnesty Program's inadequacy in providing support and rehabilitation opportunities to former militants and restive youths is causing a cycle of violence and poverty;

Also worried that the absence of federal intervention in these areas undermines efforts to establish lasting peace and security in the region;

Cognizant that the Inclusion of Ndokwa/Ukwuani in the Amnesty Program would aid in disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, promoting peace, equity, fairness, and development in the region;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Regional Development to prioritize developmental projects and vocational training programs in Ndokwa/Ukwuani to provide sustainable livelihoods, reduce youth restiveness, and promote peace and stability in the region;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to immediately include Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency in the Amnesty Program to address the grievances of the affected youths and ensure equitable treatment;
- (iii) further urge the Presidential Amnesty Office to conduct a thorough assessment of the situation in Ndokwa/Ukwuani to facilitate its inclusion;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Regional Development, and Host Communities to engage with community leaders, youth groups, and other stakeholders in Ndokwa/Ukwuani to ensure a smooth and effective integration into the Amnesty Program (*Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Amnesty Program was established to address the grievances and reintegrate Ex-militants from the Niger Delta region into society;

Also noted that Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency in Delta State consists of three Local Government Areas, namely Ndokwa East, Ndokwa West, and Ukwuani, all of which are oil-producing regions;

Further noted that these Communities host Multinational Oil Companies such as the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC), Sterling Exploration and Energy Production Company (SEEPCO), Pillar Oil, Platform Oil Limited;

Concerned that the exclusion of Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency from the Amnesty Program is causing growing frustrations among the local population, potentially leading to severe social and economic unrest;

Worried that the Amnesty Program's inadequacy in providing support and rehabilitation opportunities to former militants and restive youths is causing a cycle of violence and poverty;

Also worried that the absence of federal intervention in these areas undermines efforts to establish lasting peace and security in the region;

Cognizant that the Inclusion of Ndokwa/Ukwuani in the Amnesty Program would aid in disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, promoting peace, equity, fairness, and development in the region;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Regional Development to prioritize developmental projects and vocational training programs in Ndokwa/Ukwuani to provide sustainable livelihoods, reduce youth restiveness, and promote peace and stability in the region;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to immediately include Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency in the Amnesty Program to address the grievances of the affected youths and ensure equitable treatment;
- (iii) further urge the Presidential Amnesty Office to conduct a thorough assessment of the situation in Ndokwa/Ukwuani to facilitate its inclusion;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Regional Development, and Host Communities to engage with community leaders, youth groups, and other stakeholders in Ndokwa/Ukwuani to ensure a smooth and effective integration into the Amnesty Program (**HR. 48/02/2025**).

18. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 20 February, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.24 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker