



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 19 July, 2023

1. The House met at 11.16 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 18 July, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
Bereavement:

(i) Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Kama Nkemlanma (Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency), announcing the demise of Sen. Anyim Chukwu Ude (Ebonyi South Senatorial District 2007 - 2011), on 15 May, 2023 at the age of 82.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

- (ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Remote and Immediate Cause of the Ishinkwo and Abaomege Age-Long Communal Crisis:***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

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| (1) | Hon. Stanley Adedeji | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Nnamani Emeka Sunday | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Uduak Alphonsus Odudoh | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Kareem Abisoye | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Thomas Ereyifomi | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Bappa Aliyu Misau | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Mafara Bukar Kareto | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Salman Idris | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Ekene Abubal Adam | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Princess C. Nnabuike | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (11) | Hon. Aliyu Mustapha | — | <i>Member</i> |

(iii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Cause of the Delay in Completing the Construction of Abuja - Kaduna - Kano Highway:***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Dasuki Abdul Samal	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Adewale Moruf	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Rodney Ambaiwei	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Odi Okojie	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Midalla Usman Balami	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Tschukwu Okere	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Lawan Shettima	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Abdulraheem Sanni Egidi	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Sagir Koko	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Obi Aguocha	—	<i>Member</i>

(iv) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Gruesome Murder of Nigerians by Soldiers in Enugu:***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Abdulraheem Sanni Egidi	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Usman Basiru	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Joseph Nwobasi	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Marcus Onobun	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Olamijuwonlo Alao Ayodeji	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Felix Nweke	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Jafaru Yakubu	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbewi	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Isa Dogonyaro	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Cannice Moore C. Nwachukwu	—	<i>Member</i>

(v) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Compliance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government and Corporate Bodies with the Industrial Training Fund Act and Reasons Affecting the Success of the Scheme from 2010 - 2023:***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Emmanuel Ukpong Udo	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Taofeek Ajilesoro	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Manu Soro	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Abdulraheem Sanni Egidi	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Gboyega Nasir Isiaka	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Bello Shehu Fagge	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Dennis Agbo	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Obed Shehu	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Boniface Emerengwa	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Miriam Onuoha	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Idris Saliman	—	<i>Member</i>

(vi) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Disposal of Public Property by the Agencies Between 2010 - 2022 to Unravel the Extent of Illegal Auctioning of Public Property, Non-Remittance of Revenue Realized into Consolidated Revenue Fund:***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Julius Ihonvbere	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Afolabi Afuade	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Alex Egbonna	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Jakowa Hassan Kakaku	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Ugonna Ozurigbo	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Ali Caru	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Lalu Ishaya David	—	<i>Member</i>

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| (9) | Hon. Mansur Musa Jega | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Afam Uktor Osene | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (11) | Hon. Mike Etaba | — | <i>Member</i> |

(vii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Convene a Legislative Summit on Students Loans and Access to Higher Education:***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

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|------|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Terseer Ughor | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Saba Ahmed Adam | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Mark Esset | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Ganiyu Ayuba | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Chijioke Okereke | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Osi Kama Nkemkanma | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Inuwa Garba | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Kobis Ari Thinmu | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Blessing Onuh Onyeche | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Nasiru Bodinga | — | <i>Member</i> |

(viii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Interface with the Relevant Security Agencies to Reduce Kidnapping, Assassinations and Banditry in and Around Isuikwuato and Imunneochi Local Government Areas of Abia State:***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

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|------|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Aguocha Obinna | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Chinedu Ogah | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Boma Goodhead | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Kayode Akiolu | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Thomas Egbede | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Kwamoti Bitrus Laori | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Yaya Bauchi Tongo | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Mahmud Abdullahi | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Abdullahi Sani Rogo | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Patrick Umoh | — | <i>Member</i> |

(ix) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Allegations of Alleged Fictitious Contract Awards, Gross Management of Billions of Naira and Lopsided Placement of Directors by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency:***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

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|------|------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Kelechi Nwogu | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Makinde Peter Abiola | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Echenna Eleodimmuo | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Offiong Godwin Odey | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Jonathan Ukodiko | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Chidi Mark Obeta | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Tijanni Zanna Zakaria | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Zakaria Nyampa | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Kabiru Ahmadu Maipalace | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Ikeagwuonu Ugochinyere | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (11) | Hon. Onwusibe Ginger Obinna | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (12) | Hon. Umar Shehu Ajilo | — | <i>Member</i> |

5. **Petition**

A petition from Temitope Obasaju Stephen Esq, on the refusal of Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) Court of Justice to pay his entitlement, was presented and laid by Hon. Salman Idris (*Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions (when Constituted).

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**(i) *The Ongoing Flood Ravaging Iko and Okoromboho Communities in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State:***

Hon. Uduak Odudoh Alphonsus (*Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

The Ongoing Flood Ravaging Iko and Okoromboho Communities in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State:

The House:

Notes that environmental protection is one of the objectives of the Nigerian State under section 20 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Also notes that 90 percent of the Communities in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area situate at the coastal belt, are exposed to flood and currently flooded such as Iko and Okoromboho communities;

Aware that on Sunday, 16 July, 2023, flood ravaged private, public buildings and farmlands in the aforementioned Communities resulting in loss of properties worth millions of Naira;

Worried that the only access bridge connecting the two communities has been cut off with more than 90 houses in Iko and 50 houses in Okoromboho communities overtaken by flood as more of the incident report keep unfolding;

Also worried that the menace greeted inhabitants of the affected Communities with untold hardship, as many inhabitants were rendered homeless, and businesses truncated, thereby causing the victims to forcefully relocate to seek refuge in neighbouring communities, who by circumstantial evaluation are equally sitting on a time bomb awaiting to be greeted by the same menace;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Ecological Fund Office, and other concerned Government Agencies to immediately intervene and proffer lasting solutions to the hazards caused by the flood in Iko and Okoromboho communities in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to provide palliatives to the affected inhabitants of the aforementioned communities to ameliorate the negative impacts of the flood; and
- (iii) liaise with relevant Agencies of Government to relocate the victims to a safe area (*Hon. Uduak Odudoh — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Eñnin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that environmental protection is one of the objectives of the Nigerian State under section 20 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Also noted that 90 percent of the Communities in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area situate at the coastal belt, are exposed to flood and currently flooded such as Iko and Okoromboho communities;

Aware that on Sunday, 16 July, 2023, flood ravaged private, public buildings and farmlands in the aforementioned Communities resulting in loss of properties worth millions of Naira;

Worried that the only access bridge connecting the two communities has been cut off with more than 90 houses in Iko and 50 houses in Okoromboho communities overtaken by flood as more of the incident report keep unfolding;

Also worried that the menace greeted inhabitants of the affected Communities with untold hardship, as many inhabitants were rendered homeless, and businesses truncated, thereby causing the victims to forcefully relocate to seek refuge in neighbouring communities, who by circumstantial evaluation are equally sitting on a time bomb awaiting to be greeted by the same menace;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Ecological Fund Office, and other concerned Government Agencies to immediately intervene and proffer lasting solutions to the hazards caused by the flood in Iko and Okoromboho communities in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State;
 - (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to provide palliatives to the affected inhabitants of the aforementioned communities to ameliorate the negative impacts of the flood; and
 - (iii) liaise with relevant Agencies of Government to relocate the victims to a safe area (**HR. 96/07/2023**).
- (ii) ***Flood Disaster in Nanti Village, Ijora Olopa, Ijora Clove and Ijora Badia, Apapa Local Government of Lagos State: A Call for Urgent Assistance to the Suffering Victims:***
Hon. Adedayo Samuel Adesola (*Apapa Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Flood Disaster in Nanti Village, Ijora Olopa, Ijora Clove and Ijora Badia, Apapa Local Government of Lagos State: A Call for Urgent Assistance to the Suffering Victims:

The House:

Notes that on Saturday, 15 July, 2023, there was heavy downpour which led to excessive flooding at Nanti Village, Ijora Olopa, Ijora Oloye and Ijora Badia in Apapa Local Government of Lagos State.

Concerned that the heavy rains resulted in unprecedented flooding which led to the partial submerging of many houses and homes belonging to over one million low-income earners, artisans and petty traders, and caused extensive damage to properties worth millions of Naira;

Also concerned that the shore or coast lines of Nanti Village has been completely washed away by the floods thereby disconnecting the village from Apapa, the Local Government Headquarter in Lagos State, as many of the culverts have also been submerged and destroyed;

Further concerned that Nanti Community are predominantly riverine, bordered in the North and South by Port-Novo and Badagry Creeks in Apapa Local Government which makes them susceptible to annual massive flooding and erosion, leading to loss of lives and properties as well as outright displacement of some households;

Worried that the people of Nanti community are predominantly fishermen and women contributing immensely to the Gross Domestic Product of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Also worried that the flood has caused several people to be displaced and homeless, with no shelter and other basic human daily needs, while most of the displaced are temporarily residing in public buildings such as Schools;

Equally worried that despite the efforts of the successive governments of Lagos State to address these problems through their bold initiatives, the challenges are yet to be fully addressed due to paucity of funds. It therefore required the full intervention of the Federal Government;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to quickly assess the level of damage and urgently provide relief materials and other immediate support to the affected victims and assist in rehabilitating them;
- (ii) urge the Ecological Fund Office under the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Federal Ministry of Environment, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, as well as other relevant Federal Government Agencies saddled with the responsibility of flood and erosion control to provide permanent solution to this yearly destructive occurrence;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Adedayo Samuel Adesola — Apapa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Saturday, 15 July, 2023, there was heavy downpour which led to excessive flooding at Nanti Village, Ijora Olopa, Ijora Oloye and Ijora Badia in Apapa Local Government of Lagos State.

Concerned that the heavy rains resulted in unprecedented flooding which led to the partial submerging of many houses and homes belonging to over one million low-income earners, artisans and petty traders, and caused extensive damage to properties worth millions of Naira;

Also concerned that the shore or coast lines of Nanti Village has been completely washed away by the floods thereby disconnecting the village from Apapa, the Local Government Headquarter in Lagos State, as many of the culverts have also been submerged and destroyed;

Further concerned that Nanti Community are predominantly riverine, bordered in the North and South by Port-Novo and Badagry Creeks in Apapa Local Government which makes them susceptible to annual massive flooding and erosion, leading to loss of lives and properties as well as outright displacement of some households;

Worried that the people of Nanti community are predominantly fishermen and women contributing immensely to the Gross Domestic Product of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Also worried that the flood has caused several people to be displaced and homeless, with no shelter and other basic human daily needs, while most of the displaced are temporarily residing in public buildings such as Schools;

Equally worried that despite the efforts of the successive governments of Lagos State to address these problems through their bold initiatives, the challenges are yet to be fully addressed due to paucity of funds. It therefore required the full intervention of the Federal Government;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to quickly assess the level of damage and urgently provide relief materials and other immediate support to the affected victims and assist in rehabilitating them;
- (ii) urge the Ecological Fund Office under the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Federal Ministry of Environment, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, as well as other relevant Federal Government Agencies saddled with the responsibility of flood and erosion control to provide permanent solution to this yearly destructive occurrence;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 97/07/2023**).

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere — Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iii) ***Need to Investigate the Arbitrary Increase of Petrol Pump Price from ₦537 to ₦617 by Petrol Marketers and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL):***
Hon. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere (*Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Investigate the Arbitrary Increase of Petrol Pump Price from ₦537 to ₦617 by Petrol Marketers and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL):

The House:

Notes that section 88 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowers the National Assembly to conduct investigations into the activities of any authority executing or administering laws made by the National Assembly;

Also notes that Section 32 of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 saddles the Petroleum Midstream and Downstream Regulatory Authority with the task of regulating and monitoring technical and commercial midstream and downstream petroleum operations in Nigeria;

Informed that on Tuesday, 18 July, 2023, Petrol Pump Price was increased from ₦537 to ₦617 by Petrol marketers, without conferring with the relevant agencies of government;

Disturbed that in view of the current socio-economic challenges being faced by Nigerians, a hike in the price of fuel will heap great suffering and hardship on Nigerians;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the circumstances leading to the increment of the Petrol Pump Price by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) and the Marketers and propose Palliative measures to be taken to ameliorate the sufferings of Nigerians and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere — Ideato North/South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
“Urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL), to revert the price to the status quo pending the outcome of the *Ad-hoc* Committee’s investigation” (*Hon. Zakaria Dauda Nyampa — Madagali/Michika Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “and the”, *leave out* the word “Marketers”, and *insert* the words “Independent Petroleum Products Marketers Association” (*Hon. Avia Musa Agah — Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that section 88 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowers the National Assembly to conduct investigations into the activities of any authority executing or administering laws made by the National Assembly;

Also noted that Section 32 of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 saddles the Petroleum Midstream and Downstream Regulatory Authority with the task of regulating and monitoring technical and commercial midstream and downstream petroleum operations in Nigeria;

Informed that on Tuesday, 18 July, 2023, Petrol Pump Price was increased from ₦537 to ₦617 by Petrol marketers, without conferring with the relevant agencies of government;

Disturbed that in view of the current socio-economic challenges being faced by Nigerians, a hike in the price of fuel will heap great suffering and hardship on Nigerians;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the circumstances leading to the increment of the Petrol Pump Price by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) and the Independent Petroleum Products Marketers Association and propose Palliative measures to be taken to ameliorate the sufferings of Nigerians and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 98/07/2023**).

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.160).
- (2) Chartered Institute of Public Health Studies (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.161).
- (3) Federal University of Biomedical Sciences, Oju, Benue State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.162).
- (4) Federal Medical Centre, Obi Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.163).
- (5) Lagos Megacity Development Authority Bill, 2023 (HB.164).
- (6) Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.165).
- (7) Employee Remuneration Protection Bill, 2023 (HB.166).
- (8) Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.167).
- (9) Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.168).
- (10) North West Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.169).
- (11) Federal Polytechnic, Shendam, Plateau State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.170).
- (12) Federal College of Horticulture, Okigwe (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.171).
- (13) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.172).

- (14) Federal College of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences Bill, 2023 (HB.173).
- (15) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Ngor Okpala (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.174).
- (16) Immigration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.175).
- (17) Criminal Justice Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.176).
- (18) Close circuit Television (Compulsory Installation) Bill, 2023 (HB.177).
- (19) National Institute for Brackish Water Fisheries Research, Ngo-Andoni (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.178).
- (20) Sea Fisheries Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.179).
- (21) River Niger Transit Act (Repeal) Bill, 2023 (HB.180).
- (22) South South Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.181).
- (23) National Centre for Ear, Nose and Throat Disease (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.182).
- (24) Nigeria Social Investment Regulation Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.183).
- (25) Nigeria Climate Change Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.184).

8. **Presentation of Report**

Ad-hoc Committee on the Screening of Nominees for Appointment as Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Screening of Nominees for Appointment as Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria" (Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. **Precedence of the Orders of the Day postponed by Request (Order Eight, Rule 6 (2))**

Hon. Dennis Nnamdi Agbo (*Igbo-Eze North/Udem Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the 19th Order of the Day, a motion on ***Increased Engagement Needed for Nigerians to Select Acceptable Palliative Options After Removal of Fuel Subsidy*** standing in his name and requested the House to allow him present his motion forthwith to enable him attend to another official assignment.

Request granted by leave of the House.

10. **Increased Engagement Needed for Nigerians to Select Acceptable Palliative Options After Removal of Fuel Subsidy**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the House passed the Supplementary Appropriation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023, amending the Supplementary Appropriation Act to extract ₦500 Billion for palliatives to cushion fuel subsidy removal in Nigeria;

Also notes that the Bill was passed into law after a good amount of contribution to debate by a reasonable number of Honourable Members;

Aware that Nigerian people for whom the palliatives are intended insist on having input into the final choice of selected options;

Constrained as a parliament of Nigerians to consider all options and choose the most compassionate program proposed by the President;

Also aware of the Committee on Palliatives set up by the President, comprising the organised labour, Civil Societies Organisations, experts and members of the public to consider the final option;

Informed that Parliament has acknowledged the President's State of Emergency on Food Security, focusing on farmland security, commodity Boards, and irrigation support, applauding these measures for improved food access and affordability;

Concerned about how little the proposed monthly cash handout of ₦8,000 can achieve for a selected household of five members under current potential inflationary pressure if not supported by increased output will only amount to motion without movement, both for the beneficiaries and for the generality of the Nigerian people;

Cognisant that at the moment, suppressed output rather than purchasing power, is the main challenge that the masses have had to contend with, under a regime of rising prices;

Conscious that other non-cash measures such as the security of farmers, favourable operating environment for businesses, support for mass transit, improved access to social services such as education and health care, and rehabilitation of road infrastructure are considerable palliative options of universal benefit and greater impact than options limited to only the scoped population;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to collate the views of Members of the House of Representatives, Civil Society Organisations, and the Nigerian public, and engage the government on the selection of the best palliative options to cushion the effect of removal of fuel subsidy in Nigeria, and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Dennis Nnamdi Agbo — Igbo-Eze North/Udem Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Negatived.

11. Need to Investigate the Non-Remittance to the National Housing Fund and Utilization of the Fund from 2011 to date

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that National Housing Fund (NHF) is a Federal Government scheme, which entitles all Nigerians above the age of 21 years in paid employment to a low interest, government funded loan to developers to provide purpose-built homes that fit the incomes of low- and medium-income;

Aware that the Federal Government set up the scheme in 1992, and all Nigerians above 21 years old and working in the economy's public, private and informal sectors are eligible to register and participate by contributing 2.5 per cent of their monthly incomes;

Also aware that the National Housing Fund Scheme presents a convenient and cost-effective opportunity for Nigerians, especially those within the low- and medium-income segment. Successive

Governments in Nigeria had introduced various measures and policies in the last four decades to combat the housing problem in Nigeria as it is believed that a well-articulated housing policy could stimulate economic growth, generate employment, redistribute the population and reduce urban degeneration;

Informed that to facilitate the deductions and remittances of contributions, each employer is expected to be registered. The self-employed individuals can, however, collect forms from any branch of FMB nationwide;

Concerned that from an assessment of the performance of National Housing Fund (NHF) in Nigeria carried out by the Central Bank of Nigeria, the analysis of survey returns revealed that one in every five disbursed loans went into default despite the slight improvement of 20.9 percent witnessed in 2014 compared with 23.8 per cent in 2012, the rate of loan default witnessed a sharp increase to 45.8 per cent in 2015 and further to 59.6 per cent in 2016. Various reasons were provided for the high default rate experienced by the PMBs, demise of the mortgagor, unwillingness of the customers to repay, non- payment by employer and lack of constant follow-up on the mortgagor, amongst others;

Also concerned that there seems to be a gross default in the utilization and remittance of the National Housing Fund which constitutes an offence under section 20 of the NHF Act;

Resolves:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the Non Remittances to National Housing Fund and utilization of the fund from 2011 till date (*Hon. Zakaria Dauda Nyampa — Madagali/Michika Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that National Housing Fund (NHF) is a Federal Government scheme, which entitles all Nigerians above the age of 21years in paid employment to a low interest, government funded loan to developers to provide purpose-built homes that fit the incomes of low- and medium-income;

Aware that the Federal Government set up the scheme in 1992, and all Nigerians above 21 years old and working in the economy's public, private and informal sectors are eligible to register and participate by contributing 2.5 per cent of their monthly incomes;

Also aware that the National Housing Fund Scheme presents a convenient and cost-effective opportunity for Nigerians, especially those within the low- and medium-income segment. Successive Governments in Nigeria had introduced various measures and policies in the last four decades to combat the housing problem in Nigeria as it is believed that a well-articulated housing policy could stimulate economic growth, generate employment, redistribute the population and reduce urban degeneration;

Informed that to facilitate the deductions and remittances of contributions, each employer is expected to be registered. The self-employed individuals can, however, collect forms from any branch of FMB nationwide;

Concerned that from an assessment of the performance of National Housing Fund (NHF) in Nigeria carried out by the Central Bank of Nigeria, the analysis of survey returns revealed that one in every five disbursed loans went into default despite the slight improvement of 20.9 percent witnessed in 2014 compared with 23.8 per cent in 2012, the rate of loan default witnessed a sharp increase to 45.8 per cent in 2015 and further to 59.6 per cent in 2016. Various reasons were provided for the high

default rate experienced by the PMBs, demise of the mortgagor, unwillingness of the customers to repay, non- payment by employer and lack of constant follow-up on the mortgagor, amongst others;

Also concerned that there seems to be a gross default in the utilization and remittance of the National Housing Fund which constitutes an offence under section 20 of the NHF Act;

Resolved:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the Non Remittances to National Housing Fund and utilization of the fund from 2011 till date (**HR. 99/07/2023**).

12. Construction of a Bridge to Link Kurmin-Kaduna-Rafin-Guza-Hayin-Naiya-Anguwan Dosa and Kaduna Town

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Kurmin-Kaduna is a community of over 50,000 people founded in the 15th Century, about 450 years ago as a tourist and business area for people from Kano, Sokoto and Maiduguri;

Also notes that Kurmin-Kaduna is located across River Kaduna, surrounded by 23 towns and villages namely: Mashigi, Unguwan Kudu, Makwalla, Kahuta, Unguwan Tudu, Sabon Gari, Tungan Jatau, Unguwan Jibir, Unguwan Mai Rigs, Tsohuwan Kurmin Kaduna, Unguwan Auta, Unguwan Madaki, Unguwan Waziri, Tungan Mai Anguwa Ishaya, Likora, Unguwan Makada, Unguwan Maiwada, Unguwan Barkonu, Unguwan Togace, Unguwan Namaje, Izan, Gidan Wakili and Gidan Fulani;

Aware of a river that poses great risk to Kurmin-Kaduna and neighbouring villages as the movement of people and goods from one place to another for social and commercial transactions became extremely difficult;

Regrets that it has become reoccurring annual challenge around this part of the year for the overflow of the river to distract educational and socio-economic activities of Kurmin-Kaduna and neighbouring towns and villages in Igabi Local Government;

Also regrets that the development has always resulted in the loss of lives/ properties, destruction of farmlands and dislocation of many neighbouring communities;

Worried that the development had, many times led to the loss of lives of children crossing the river to access education, making educational services difficult, unfriendly and unattractive despite the high degree of out-of-school children and illiteracy in Nigeria;

Further worried that the communities apparently to be affected by the anticipated flood are already panicked given the approaching period for such reoccurring avoidable menace;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministries of Environment, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, and Ecological Fund other to provide basic support and services to the anticipated victims of the flood;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works (*when constituted*) to liaise with the appropriate agencies to facilitate construction of a bridge linking Kurmin- Kaduna with neighbouring Kaduna Town to alleviate the long hardship suffered by several Nigerians arising from this massive infrastructural gap;

- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Hussaini Muhammed Jallo — Igabi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 100/07/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

13. Need to Investigate the Concession of Airports in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the most viable airports in our country were commissioned to foreign firms through Federal Executive Council resolutions that deviated from due process, public accountability, and established laws of the land;

Alarmed that the eventual outcome of the opaque concession exercise is the enrichment of a few unpatriotic Nigerians and their foreign cohorts at the detriment of Nigerians and the eventual enslavement of these public infrastructures to foreigners for many decades;

Recalls that our major airports in Lagos, Abuja, and Kano have remained by consistently subjects of controversies due to entrenched personal interests that have undermined the laws of the land, irrespective of the occasional efforts of our anti-corruption agencies like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission;

Laments that the myopic personal interests of these economic vampires have relegated our so called international airports to mere airstrip status after almost seven decades in the industry, and can never be compared with global renowned airports such as Heathrow, Dubai, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Qatar, Vancouver, and others;

Disturbed that even on the African continent, where one out of every six Africans is a Nigerian population-wise, the South African pairs of Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg and Cape Town, Cairo, Casablanca-Morocco and Houari Boumediene in Algeria, have all outpaced Nigeria and we also lag behind South Africa, Kenya, and Ethiopian Airlines;

Worried that our national historical public policy journey from indigenization, Commercialisation, Privatisation, Public partnerships, concessions, and others has fetched us nothing rather than monumental embarrassment, massive corruption, and controversies in the Aviation and other sectors;

Disturbed that Nigerian population dominates the African Continent, with South African cities outperforming Nigerian owed, while Kenya and Ethiopian Airlines trail behind;

Also worried that the National public policy journey has led to embarrassment, corruption, and controversies in aviation and other sectors;

Aware that the National Assembly Acts regulate, control, and manage corporations and agencies, including the Federal Airports Authority Act, Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission Act, Public Procurement Act, and Fiscal Responsibility Act;

Submits that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), empowers the National Assembly to control the economy, ensuring social justice, equality, and opportunity for citizens;

Cognizant that Nigerians are currently facing job loss and future generation's economic hardship due to the airport concession policy;

Concludes that the constitutional oversight role of this House involves exposing corruption, inefficiency and waste in laws and correcting defects as per 1999 Constitution of Nigeria;

Resolves to:

Set-up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the concession of Nigerian Airport and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Kama Nkemkanma — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(i) Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:

“Urge the Executive Arm of Government to suspend the concession of Airports in Nigeria, pending the outcome of the investigation” (*Hon. Oluwole Oke — Obokun/Oriade Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(ii) In the Prayer, *leave out* the words “set-up an *Ad-hoc* Committee”, and *insert* the words “mandate the Committee on Aviation (*when constituted*)” (*Hon. Fayinka Moses Oluwatoyin — Mushin II Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the most viable airports in our country were commissioned to foreign firms through Federal Executive Council resolutions that deviated from due process, public accountability, and established laws of the land;

Alarmed that the eventual outcome of the opaque concession exercise is the enrichment of a few unpatriotic Nigerians and their foreign cohorts at the detriment of Nigerians and the eventual enslavement of these public infrastructures to foreigners for many decades;

Recalled that our major airports in Lagos, Abuja, and Kano have remained by consistently subjects of controversies due to entrenched personal interests that have undermined the laws of the land, irrespective of the occasional efforts of our anti-corruption agencies like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission;

Lamented that the myopic personal interests of these economic vampires have relegated our so called international airports to mere airstrip status after almost seven decades in the industry, and can never be compared with global renowned airports such as Heathrow, Dubai, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Qatar, Vancouver, and others;

Disturbed that even on the African continent, where one out of every six Africans is a Nigerian population-wise, the South African pairs of Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg and Cape Town, Cairo, Casablanca-Morocco and Houari Boumediene in Algeria, have all outpaced Nigeria and we also lag behind South Africa, Kenya, and Ethiopian Airlines;

Worried that our national historical public policy journey from indigenization, Commercialisation, Privatisation, Public partnerships, concessions, and others has fetched us nothing rather than monumental embarrassment, massive corruption, and controversies in the Aviation and other sectors;

Disturbed that Nigerian population dominates the African Continent, with South African cities outperforming Nigerian owed, while Kenya and Ethiopian Airlines trail behind;

Also worried that the National public policy journey has led to embarrassment, corruption, and controversies in aviation and other sectors;

Aware that the National Assembly Acts regulate, control, and manage corporations and agencies, including the Federal Airports Authority Act, Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission Act, Public Procurement Act, and Fiscal Responsibility Act;

Submitted that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), empowers the National Assembly to control the economy, ensuring social justice, equality, and opportunity for citizens;

Cognizant that Nigerians are currently facing job loss and future generation's economic hardship due to the airport concession policy;

Concluded that the constitutional oversight role of this House involves exposing corruption, inefficiency and waste in laws and correcting defects as per 1999 Constitution of Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to suspend the concession of Airports in Nigeria, pending the outcome of the investigation;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Aviation (*when constituted*) to investigate the concession of Nigerian Airport and report within three (3) weeks (**HR. 101/07/2023**).

14. Call on the President to Lift the Embargo on Employment

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the immediate past Administration amid the recession that hit the economy in the country due to the huge drop in the international price of crude oil at the time and COVID-19 pandemic placed an embargo on employment in Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government;

Recalls that the Ninth House of Representatives passed a resolution calling on the then President to lift the embargo on employment;

Also notes that the reports in social media that the embargo had been lifted but there is no evidence of any employment taking place whatsoever;

Aware that for several years there has not been any employment in the Civil Service of the Federation, thereby creating a shortage of manpower, especially in the junior and middle-level cadre as officers are promoted and some retire and others die;

Also aware that some Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) have resorted to engaging casual staff who are paid from their Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and other sources, while it is sad that these casual staffs are non-pensionable, the act of spending government money without appropriation by the legislature for whatever purpose is illegal;

Concerned that the withdrawal of subsidy on petroleum products has increased the hardship of jobless Nigerian youths and appreciates the measures planned by the President to alleviate the suffering of the masses;

Believes that a lifting of the embargo on employment and going ahead to employ young qualified Nigerians should be a part of Mr President's rescue measures as some of the savings from the removal of the subsidy could be used in this direction;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the President to lift the embargo on employment in Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Civil Service Commission and such relevant bodies to immediately act upon Mr President's directive in this regard;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters, Labour and Employment (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance and report within four(4) weeks (*Hon Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the immediate past Administration amid the recession that hit the economy in the country due to the huge drop in the international price of crude oil at the time and COVID-19 pandemic placed an embargo on employment in Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government;

Recalled that the Ninth House of Representatives passed a resolution calling on the then President to lift the embargo on employment;

Also noted that the reports in social media that the embargo had been lifted but there is no evidence of any employment taking place whatsoever;

Aware that for several years there has not been any employment in the Civil Service of the Federation, thereby creating a shortage of manpower, especially in the junior and middle-level cadre as officers are promoted and some retire and others die;

Also aware that some Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) have resorted to engaging casual staff who are paid from their Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and other sources, while it is sad that these casual staffs are non-pensionable, the act of spending government money without appropriation by the legislature for whatever purpose is illegal;

Concerned that the withdrawal of subsidy on petroleum products has increased the hardship of jobless Nigerian youths and appreciates the measures planned by the President to alleviate the suffering of the masses;

Believed that a lifting of the embargo on employment and going ahead to employ young qualified Nigerians should be a part of Mr President's rescue measures as some of the savings from the removal of the subsidy could be used in this direction;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the President to lift the embargo on employment in Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Civil Service Commission and such relevant bodies to immediately act upon Mr President's directive in this regard;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters, Labour and Employment (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 102/07/2023**).

15. Need for a Clear Boundary Demarcation between Cross River and Ebonyi States

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that conflict between the border communities of Cross River and Ebonyi States has been on for over a century;

Also notes that as in March 2019, it was reported that the conflict has claimed more than 3,000 lives excluding those who lost some parts of their bodies;

Further notes that these boarder communities have in several occasions convoked peace talk which had always yield little or no results;

Recalls that a robust stakeholders meeting aimed at finding a permanent solution to the problem called at the instance of Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), having in attendance representatives from the warring communities, particularly, the people of Abi, Biase, Obubra, Yala Local Government Areas of Cross River State, and Izzi, Ikwo, Abakaliki Local Government Areas of Ebonyi State;

Further recalls also that Office of the secretary to the Government of the Federation, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Boundaries Commission, National Orientation Agency, federal lawmakers representing the areas, Traditional Rulers were all present in the meeting;

Again recalls that the main aim of convoking the stakeholders meeting was among other things, to lay a foundation and create a conducive atmosphere for the National Boundaries Commission to commence demarcation of the boundaries between the warring communities;

Believes that the relative peaceful atmosphere existing in the warring communities is as a result of the said stakeholders meeting;

Also believes that there is no better time than now to put every possible machinery in motion and bring peace and tranquility to the warring communities and bring to an end the constant killings and destruction of lives and properties;

Resolve to:

- (i) urge the National Boundaries Commission to as a matter of urgency commence and complete the demarcation of the boundaries between Cross River State and Ebonyi State;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Michael Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“Urge the Office of the State Governor, the Surveyor-General and House of Representatives Members from the affected areas to participate in the demarcation exercise” (*Hon. Chinedu Ogah — Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that conflict between the border communities of Cross River and Ebonyi States has been on for over a century;

Also noted that as in March 2019, it was reported that the conflict has claimed more than 3,000 lives excluding those who lost some parts of their bodies;

Further noted that these boarder communities have in several occasions convoked peace talk which had always yield little or no results;

Recalled that a robust stakeholders meeting aimed at finding a permanent solution to the problem called at the instance of Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), having in attendance representatives from the warring communities, particularly, the people of Abi, Biase, Obubra, Yala Local Government Areas of Cross River State, and Izzi, Ikwo, Abakaliki Local Government Areas of Ebonyi State;

Further recalled also that Office of the secretary to the Government of the Federation, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Boundaries Commission, National Orientation Agency, federal lawmakers representing the areas, Traditional Rulers were all present in the meeting;

Again recalled that the main aim of convoking the stakeholders meeting was among other things, to lay a foundation and create a conducive atmosphere for the National Boundaries Commission to commence demarcation of the boundaries between the warring communities;

Believed that the relative peaceful atmosphere existing in the warring communities is as a result of the said stakeholders meeting;

Also believed that there is no better time than now to put every possible machinery in motion and bring peace and tranquility to the warring communities and bring to an end the constant killings and destruction of lives and properties;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Boundaries Commission to as a matter of urgency commence and complete the demarcation of the boundaries between Cross River State and Ebonyi State;
- (ii) also urge the Office of the State Governor, the Surveyor-General and House of Representatives Members from the affected areas to participate in the demarcation exercise;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 103/07/2023**).

16. Activities of Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority from Inception to Date

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) is to receive, manage, and invest the initial and future contribution on behalf of Nigeria in each of the future Generation Fund, the Nigeria Infrastructure Fund and Stabilization Fund pursuant to the allocation of contributions of the Federal Government, State Governments, Federal Capital Territory, and Local Government Area Councils

to prepare for the eventual depletion of Nigerians Hydrocarbon Resources for the development of critical infrastructure in Nigeria;

Also notes that in compliance with the provision of the NSIA Act, 2011, signed in May 2011, the fund was allocated an initial US\$1billion (Naira equivalent) in seed capital and other subsequent allocations to the funds by the federation;

Aware that the NSIA Funds is composed of three distinct funds, (the Stabilization, future Generation and Nigeria Infrastructure funds respectively) each with specific investment and development objectives;

Also aware that some of the managed funds by the Authority includes the Presidential Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) where US\$1 billion was injected for the construction of Second Niger Bridge, Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Highway and Lagos Ibadan Expressway;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the activities of the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority from inception to date and other managed funds to assess its compliance with the Establishment Act of 2011 (*Hon. Yusuf Ahmed Doro — Bindawa/Mani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) is to receive, manage, and invest the initial and future contribution on behalf of Nigeria in each of the future Generation Fund, the Nigeria Infrastructure Fund and Stabilization Fund pursuant to the allocation of contributions of the Federal Government, State Governments, Federal Capital Territory, and Local Government Area Councils to prepare for the eventual depletion of Nigerians Hydrocarbon Resources for the development of critical infrastructure in Nigeria;

Also noted that in compliance with the provision of the NSIA Act, 2011, signed in May 2011, the fund was allocated an initial US\$1billion (Naira equivalent) in seed capital and other subsequent allocations to the funds by the federation;

Aware that the NSIA Funds is composed of three distinct funds (the Stabilization, future Generation and Nigeria Infrastructure funds respectively) each with specific investment and development objectives;

Also aware that some of the managed funds by the Authority includes the Presidential Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) where US\$1 billion was injected for the construction of Second Niger Bridge, Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Highway and Lagos Ibadan Expressway;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the activities of the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority from inception to date and other managed funds to assess its compliance with the Establishment Act of 2011 (**HR. 104/07/2023**).

- 17. Need for Rehabilitation and Dualization of Ore-Ondo-Akure Federal Road, Ondo State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Ore-Ondo-Akure Road, in Ondo State which is approximately 88.14km has been earmarked for dualization by the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing several years ago. Unfortunately, efforts by previous administration to construct the road have not yielded the desired results;

Also notes that the road section, which takes off from Akure the capital of Ondo State, transverse through several cities, towns and communities in Akure South, Ondo East, On do West and Odigbo Local Government Areas of the state;

Further notes that it serves as a major link between Ondo State and other parts of the country and major key economic benefits of the road is that it provides direct access to commuters coming from Northern parts of the country, South East and South South Geographical Zones of the country to Ore the economic and industrial hub of Ondo State;

Aware that the reconstruction and dualization of the road is very critical for economic and commercial development of the nation's economy, as it will serve as an economic boost for commuters and aid the transportation of agricultural and industrial produce from the North, South East and South South regions to Ondo state and beyond;

Acknowledges that the road is not only essential to the economic development of the State, it also ensures the safety and security of the people who depend on it; due to its proximity to Lagos state the economic hub of the nation and the recently approved Ondo Deep Seaport projects which will set the nation on the path of economic prosperity;

Disturbed that due to the deplorable condition of the road, armed robbers, are taking advantage of the narrowness and non-dualization of the road, by ambushing, dispossessing, robbing, kidnapping and killing commuters at will;

Concerned that the deplorable state of the road has turned the highway into a death trap, as travelers meet their untimely death through accidents, therefore, the reoccurring fatal accidents on the road requires reconstruction and dualization;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Hosing to include the reconstruction and dualization of the Ore- Ondo - Akure Road in the 2024 budget estimates and prioritize funding for the project;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to award the road to reliable and competent company and ensure its timely completion to ease the suffering of Nigerians and foster economic growth;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Festus Ayodele Adefiranye — Ileoluji/Okeigbo/Idigbo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 105/07/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Appropriations, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

18. Early Response to Mitigate the Impact of Flood Disaster in Demsa/Numan/Lamurde Federal Constituency of Adamawa State:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in collaboration with other relevant agencies of government has flagged off sensitization of flood-prone communities across Nigeria on the need for early warning and preparedness in response to flood disasters;

Recalls that the Seasonal Climate Prediction (SCP) and Annual Flood Outlook (AFO) released by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) at the beginning of the year 2023 both forecasted early onset of rainfall and high probability of flooding across the nation especially in states along the Benue and Niger trough;

Aware of the horrific experience of 2022, when Nigeria witnessed the worst flood disaster in recent history; which according to NEMA claimed over 603 lives, displaced over 1.4 Million people, injured over 2,400 people, destroyed about 82,035 houses and over 332,327 hectares of farmlands across the country, the property losses were estimated to cost Trillions of Naira; which further exacerbated the level of poverty and food insecurity in the country;

Concerned that in the third week of June some parts of Nasarawo - Demsa in the Demsa Local Government Area and Sabon-Pegi in the Numan Local Government Area were flooded, due to the heavy downpour that affected many homes and destroyed property worth millions of Naira. The flood also caused a washout of a box culvert in Gani Gaku, along Numan -Yola Road, thus coming earlier than the onset of rainfall predicted in the region;

Also concerned that credible and timely predictions of flood disaster have proven over the years that flooding has become an annual recurring in Nigeria with huge human and material costs in addition to the population displacement that comes with it as well as the health consequences on children and other vulnerable groups;

Submits that NEMA and other relevant ministries, departments and agencies should be mobilized and funded to prepare adequate logistics needed for distribution to victims at the earliest occurrence of the impending disaster to mitigate its impact on the Nigerian population already in distress as a result of the recent removal of subsidy on petroleum products.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, National Emergency Management Agency, National Commission for Refugee, Migration and the Internally Displaced Persons to adequately prepare an effective response plan towards the imminent disaster by stockpiling relief materials at strategic locations to palliate the suffering of the victims in good time and set up camps and vehicles for emergency evacuation;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Ecological Fund, Environment, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Water Resources and Internally Displaced Persons to assess the level of preparedness of all relevant agencies towards ensuring timely and effective response to victims of the disaster and work out lasting solutions to the ecological problems in all flood disaster-prone areas in the country.
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relief Agencies to immediately provide relief materials to the displaced people of Ideato South Local Government Area and its environs;

- (iv) mandate the Committees on Works, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kwamoti Bitrus Laori — Demsa/Numan/Lamurde Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 106/07/2023).

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

19. Need to Rehabilitate the Collapsed Akokwa-Umuchima-Mgbe-Orlu Federal Road and the Mgbe-Umuezeala-Ogboko Bridge in Ideato South Local Government Area of Imo State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

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

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

Cognizant of the fact that the Mgbe/Umuezeala/Ogboko Bypass in Ideato South Local Government Area of Imo State is a makeshift road carved out by the residents as a result of the total collapse of the Akokwa-Umuchima-Mgbe-Orlu Federal Road which connects Ideato to other parts of Imo State;

Concerned that the Mgbe/Umuezeala/Ogboko Bypass is the only route that leads to Ideato South Local Government Area of Imo State (after the failure of the Akokwa- Umuchima-Mgbe-Orlu Federal Road) and as such, its collapse amounts to a total cut off the people of Ideato South Local Government Area from the other parts of the State;

Disturbed that the road from Enugu to Arondizuogu is now a death trap due to gully erosion, causing residents to flee the area, fearing insecurity and the destruction of houses and landed properties.;

Also disturbed that as a result of the ravaging gully erosion brought down the bypass, resulting to loss of lives and properties this emphasize the call for urgent need to rehabilitate the collapsed Akokwa-Umuchima-Mgbe-Orlu Federal Road and the Mgbe-Umuezeala- Ogboko Bridge in Ideato South Local Government Areas to save lives and properties;

Worried that if urgent steps for reconstruction of the road are taken to salvage the situation, more devastating damage would be done to the lives, livelihood and properties;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Ecological Fund Office to embark on thorough repair, reconstruction and remedial works on the Mgbe/Umuezeala/Ogboko Bypass in Ideato South Local Government Area of Imo State;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Ecological Fund Office to carry out an extensive repair on the

Akokwa-Umuchima-Mgbe-Orlu Federal Road which connects Ideato to other parts of Imo State;

- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relief Agencies to immediately provide relief materials to the displaced people of Ideato South Local Government area and its environs;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Works, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere — Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 107/07/2023).

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

20 Need to Call on the Inspector-General of Police to Withdraw Police Personnel who have been Molesting, Harassing and Unleashing Terror on the Indigenes of Inikorogha Community in Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State

The House

Notes that Inikorogha Community in Ovia South West, Edo State has been under-siege since 12 April, 2023 by over thirty Police men attached to Edo State Police Command. These Police personnel whose nefarious activities includes, brutalizing and forcefully displacing indigenes of the community that are not in support of a preferred political party at the just concluded General Election;

Aware that a good number of indigenes, leaders, and elders of Inikorogha Community have been harassed, brutalized, arrested, molested and dehumanized by these Police men that have been stationed in the community few days to the re-run of the House of Assembly Election for Ovia South West Constituency election held on the 15th April 2023. They are being attacked and persecuted for their choice to express their fundamental rights to freely associate and belong to any political party of their choice;

Worried that the imperialistic attitudes of these security agents has culminated in unimaginable brutality, fatality, sporadic shootings around houses of chieftains of All Progressives Congress (APC) at ungodly hours, abuse of law abiding community women sympathetic to political parties of choice, displacement of community leaders who are APC stalwart and unconstitutionally replacing them with members of Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP);

Concerned that it is over 98 days the Policemen from the Edo State Command and numbering over thirty, with three Hilux vehicles, one of the Hilux vehicle is mounted with General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) and one Armored Personnel Carrier took over the community, at random they arrest APC members and community leaders of Inikorogha and treat them like war captives, destroying their farm produce and properties with orders from above;

Dismayed that these thirty policemen being used as tools for political oppression in Inikorogha community has displaced the following persons from their families and the communities for over three months. They are; Hon. Timi Robert (*Chairman*), Mr Pereke Stanley Ukulor (*Youth President*), Young Chief Andrew Igiri (*Community Leader*), Mr Albert Okoh Biyesegha (*PRO*), Mr Aaron Domor (*APC Chairman Inikorogha Ward 10*), Mrs Agnes Bisina (*APC Woman Leader Inikorogha Ward 10*), Mr Blessing Onire (*APC Secretary Inikorogha Ward 10*) and Rt Hon. (Chief) Robert Ekeme Fiyes (*APC Leader Ward 10*);

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to immediately withdraw the over 30 personnel officers of the force that have been stationed in Inikorogha Community for the past 3 months, harassing, intimidating and displacing law abiding indigenes of Inikorogha community in Ovia South West, Local Government Area, Edo State;
- (ii) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the unprofessional conduct and unwarranted attacks of indigenes of Inikorogha Community by Police personnel from Edo Command and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Dennis Idahosa — Ovia North East/Ovia South West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* Prayer (i) (*Hon. Amadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In the title of the Motion, *leave out* the word “withdraw”, and *insert* the words “Investigate Allegations of” (*Hon. Ibrahim Almustapha Aliyu — Wurno/Rabah Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

Need to Call on the Inspector-General of Police to Investigate Allegations of Police Personnel who have been Molesting, Harassing and Unleashing Terror on the Indigenes of Inikorogha Community in Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State:

The House

Noted that Inikorogha Community in Ovia South West, Edo State has been under-siege since 12 April, 2023 by over thirty Police men attached to Edo State Police Command. These Police personnel whose nefarious activities includes, brutalizing and forcefully displacing indigenes of the community that are not in support of a preferred political party at the just concluded General Election;

Aware that a good number of indigenes, leaders, and elders of Inikorogha Community have been harassed, brutalized, arrested, molested and dehumanized by these Police men that have been stationed in the community few days to the re-run of the House of Assembly Election for Ovia South West Constituency election held on 15 April, 2023. They are being attacked and persecuted for their choice to express their fundamental rights to freely associate and belong to any political party of their choice;

Worried that the imperialistic attitudes of these security agents has culminated in unimaginable brutality, fatality, sporadic shootings around houses of chieftains of All Progressives Congress (APC) at ungodly hours, abuse of law abiding community women sympathetic to political parties of choice, displacement of community leaders who are APC stalwart and unconstitutionally replacing them with members of Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP);

Concerned that it is over 98 days the Policemen from the Edo State Command and numbering over thirty, with three Hilux vehicles, one of the Hilux vehicle is mounted with General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) and one Armoured Personnel Carrier took over the community, at random they arrest APC members and community leaders of Inikorogha and treat them like war captives, destroying their farm produce and properties with orders from above;

Dismayed that these thirty policemen being used as tools for political oppression in Inikorogha community has displaced the following persons from their families and the communities for over three months. They are; Hon. Timi Robert (*Chairman*), Mr Pereke Stanley Ukulor (*Youth President*), Young Chief Andrew Igiri (*Community Leader*), Mr Albert Okoh Biyesegha (*PRO*), Mr Aaron Domor (*APC Chairman Inikorogha Ward 10*), Mrs Agnes Bisina (*APC Woman Leader Inikorogha Ward 10*), Mr Blessing Onire (*APC Secretary Inikorogha Ward 10*) and Rt Hon. (Chief) Robert Ekeme Fiyes (*APC Leader Ward 10*);

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the unprofessional conduct and unwarranted attacks of indigenes of Inikorogha Community by Police personnel from Edo Command and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 108/07/2023**).

21. Need for the Investigation into the Poor State of the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Road in Oluyole Federal Constituency, Oyo State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House

Notes with grave concern the deplorable state of the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen road in Oluyole Federal Constituency, Oyo State, which serves as a crucial transportation link between Oyo State and Ogun State. This road plays a vital role in connecting commuters of one of the largest communities in Oluyole to the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and has become increasingly important due to the growing population and the negative effect of the declining economic activities in the area;

Aware of several petitions and complaints from the constituents regarding the deteriorating condition of the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen road, which poses serious risks to the lives and safety of road users. The road has become virtually impassable, causing inconvenience, hampering economic activities, and leading to numerous accidents and fatalities. The current state of the road is unacceptable and requires urgent intervention;

Also notes that despite the yearly budgetary allocations and the disbursement of funds to the contractor, the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Road remains in a state of disrepair. It is disheartening to learn that the contractors have failed to execute the necessary rehabilitation and construction works, despite the availability of funds;

Further notes that the poor state of the road has had severe socio-economic consequences for the constituents and the surrounding communities. It hampers transportation, impedes access to essential services, and negatively affects the economic well-being of the people;

Concerned that the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen road in Oluyole Federal Constituency has deteriorated to a dangerous level and has become a death trap for road users;

Also aware that an urgent intervention is required to address the poor state of the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen road in Oluyole Federal Constituency. The safety and well-being of the constituents and road users must be a priority, and swift action is needed to alleviate their suffering and restore the road to a safe and usable condition.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to terminate the contract with underperforming contractors, and award the project to a reputable company to ensure timely completion of the road and update the House to facilitate transparency and effective utilization of funds for the intended purpose;

- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the consistent failure of the contractors to fulfil their contractual obligations focussing on the construction and rehabilitation of the Olomi Olojuoro road, referred to as the Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, with the following contracts and budget allocations:
 - (a) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, C/No. 6455 in 2019, with an allocated budget of ₦367,569,090,
 - (b) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, C/No. 6455 in 2020, with an allocated budget of ₦258,970,000,
 - (c) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road (Oyo/Ogun), C/No. 6113 in 2021, with an allocated budget of ₦100,000,000,
 - (d) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, C/No. 6455 in 2022, with an allocated budget of ₦208,000,000,
 - (e) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, C/No. 6455 in 2023, with an allocated budget of ₦200,000,000;
- (iii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to ensure that the contract awarded to DC Engineering Limited stays terminated as was terminated in late 2022 and the contract not be awarded to DC Engineering Limited who has failed to deliver on the contract which has led to hardship and loss of lives. Furthermore and award the construction of the Olomi Olojuoro road to a more reputable company under strict supervision to ensure its timely completion and adhere to quality standards;
- (iv) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee to update the House on the progress of the Olomi Olojuoro road construction project and ensure allocated funds are efficiently utilized for the intended purpose, promoting transparency and accountability (*Hon. Olumide Osoba Babatunde — Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out Prayer (i) (Hon. Agbedi Frederick — Ekeremor/Sagbama Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Leave out Prayer (iii) (Hon. Fatoba Olusola Steve Gbadura — Ado Ekiti/Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House

Noted with grave concern the deplorable state of the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen road in Oluyole Federal Constituency, Oyo State, which serves as a crucial transportation link between Oyo State and Ogun State. This road plays a vital role in connecting commuters of one of the largest communities in Oluyole to the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and has become increasingly important due to the growing population and the negative effect of the declining economic activities in the area;

Aware of several petitions and complaints from the constituents regarding the deteriorating condition

of the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen road, which poses serious risks to the lives and safety of road users. The road has become virtually impassable, causing inconvenience, hampering economic activities, and leading to numerous accidents and fatalities. The current state of the road is unacceptable and requires urgent intervention;

Also noted that despite the yearly budgetary allocations and the disbursement of funds to the contractor, the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Road remains in a state of disrepair. It is disheartening to learn that the contractors have failed to execute the necessary rehabilitation and construction works, despite the availability of funds;

Further noted that the poor state of the road has had severe socio-economic consequences for the constituents and the surrounding communities. It hampers transportation, impedes access to essential services, and negatively affects the economic well-being of the people;

Concerned that the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen road in Oluyole Federal Constituency has deteriorated to a dangerous level and has become a death trap for road users;

Also aware that an urgent intervention is required to address the poor state of the Olomi Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen road in Oluyole Federal Constituency. The safety and well-being of the constituents and road users must be a priority, and swift action is needed to alleviate their suffering and restore the road to a safe and usable condition.

Resolved to:

- (i) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the consistent failure of the contractors to fulfil their contractual obligations focussing on the construction and rehabilitation of the Olomi Olojuoro road, referred to as the Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, with the following contracts and budget allocations:
 - (a) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, C/No. 6455 in 2019, with an allocated budget of ₦367,569,090,
 - (b) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, C/No. 6455 in 2020, with an allocated budget of ₦258,970,000,
 - (c) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road (Oyo/Ogun), C/No. 6113 in 2021, with an allocated budget of ₦100,000,000,
 - (d) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, C/No. 6455 in 2022, with an allocated budget of ₦208,000,000,
 - (e) construction of Ijebu-Igbo Ita Egba-Owonowen Ibadan road, C/No. 6455 in 2023, with an allocated budget of ₦200,000,000;
- (ii) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee to update the House on the progress of the Olomi Olojuoro road construction project and ensure allocated funds are efficiently utilized for the intended purpose, promoting transparency and accountability (**HR. 109/07/2023**).

22. Need for Federal Government to Support the Production of Palm Oil in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that prior to the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantities in Nigeria, palm oil was a major agricultural export crop and a top foreign exchange earner for the country;

Also notes that according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Nigeria was the largest producer of palm oil in the world but has fallen to the fifth position with 1.5 per cent or 1.03 million metric tons of the world's total output and an average production of 1.4 million metric tons;

Further notes that according to the National Palm Oil Produce Association of Nigeria (NPPAN), Nigeria is the largest consumer of the palm oil in Africa, consuming approximately 2.5 million metric tons yearly, while domestic production stands at less than 1.3 million metric tons, leaving a deficit of over 1.2 million metric tons;

Concerned that Nigeria, which was a leading exporter of the palm oil, is now a net importer, depending largely on other countries to meet the huge supply gap over the years;

Also concerned that experts in the industry have forecast that Nigeria's oil palm imports from Malaysia will continue to increase because her investment in the industry is still very insignificant;

Aware that the high cost of some essential commodities in Nigeria is directly related to the high cost of palm oil as palm oil forms more than 45 per cent of raw materials that is needed for the production of most packaged foods;

Also aware that other essential food and household items such as vegetable oil, biscuits, chips, margarines, shortenings, cereals, baked foods, washing detergents, Chocolate and even cosmetics are all made from palm oil;

Worried that over the last five years, around 25% of the yearly domestic palm oil consumed in Nigeria was imported as most companies in Nigeria receive supplies from Malaysia, Columbia and Indonesia, thus putting pressure on the foreign exchange and creating jobs for foreign countries;

Cognizant that palm oil is one of the fastest selling and most desirable agricultural commodities in the international market and the palm oil industry is capable of providing millions of jobs, reducing poverty and growing the country's economy;

Disturbed that while the price of palm oil keeps falling globally due to rising output in major palm oil producing countries, Nigeria's output remains stagnant amidst rising demand;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to establish a palm oil Intervention Fund;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to develop a policy to drive the development of palm oil production in Nigeria; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and services (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that prior to the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantities in Nigeria, palm oil was a major agricultural export crop and a top foreign exchange earner for the country;

Also noted that according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Nigeria was the largest producer of palm oil in the world but has fallen to the fifth position with 1.5 per cent or 1.03 million metric tons of the world's total output and an average production of 1.4 million metric tons;

Further noted that according to the National Palm Oil Produce Association of Nigeria (NPPAN), Nigeria is the largest consumer of the palm oil in Africa, consuming approximately 2.5 million metric tons yearly, while domestic production stands at less than 1.3 million metric tons, leaving a deficit of over 1.2 million metric tons;

Concerned that Nigeria, which was a leading exporter of the palm oil, is now a net importer, depending largely on other countries to meet the huge supply gap over the years;

Also concerned that experts in the industry have forecast that Nigeria's oil palm imports from Malaysia will continue to increase because her investment in the industry is still very insignificant;

Aware that the high cost of some essential commodities in Nigeria is directly related to the high cost of palm oil as palm oil forms more than 45 per cent of raw materials that is needed for the production of most packaged foods;

Also aware that other essential food and household items such as vegetable oil, biscuits, chips, margarines, shortenings, cereals, baked foods, washing detergents, Chocolate and even cosmetics are all made from palm oil;

Worried that over the last five years, around 25% of the yearly domestic palm oil consumed in Nigeria was imported as most companies in Nigeria receive supplies from Malaysia, Columbia and Indonesia, thus putting pressure on the foreign exchange and creating jobs for foreign countries;

Cognizant that palm oil is one of the fastest selling and most desirable agricultural commodities in the international market and the palm oil industry is capable of providing millions of jobs, reducing poverty and growing the country's economy;

Disturbed that while the price of palm oil keeps falling globally due to rising output in major palm oil producing countries, Nigeria's output remains stagnant amidst rising demand;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to establish a palm oil Intervention Fund;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to develop a policy to drive the development of palm oil production in Nigeria; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and services (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 110/07/2023**).

23. Need to Address the Indiscriminate Sale of Phone SIM Cards to fight against Banditry Insecurity in Illela and Gwadabawa Local Government Areas

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the role played by SIM cards cannot be over emphasized in this age of "information, Communications Technology;

Also notes that mobile communications system in the country has made it easier for banditry to thrive unhindered as their activities are facilitated by the use of illegally registered" SIM cards.

Aware that SIM cards activation are used to connect family members by bandits; facilitate communication with logistics .suppliers; such as weapons, contact of family of victims and eventually payment-of ransom is are done through mobile communication which call to question the failure or due diligence of Security apparatus;

Cognizant that the Nigerian Communications Commission Act, 2003, which established the power and authority to regulate the provision and the use of all communication services in Nigeria;

Convince of the compelling need to declare a state of emergency in to address the indiscriminate sale of SIM cards in Illela Gwadabawa Federal Constituency and Nigeria in general.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Communications Commission to deactivate illegally registered SIM Cards and put measures to immediately ban the SIM Card agents;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to engage both the Nigerian Communications Commission and Mobile Operators and any measure that need to be taken particularly on security;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Telecommunications (*when constituted*) to interface with the Nigerian Telecommunication Commission to fashion out sustainable regulatory framework to eliminate all forms illegalities in the system (*Hon. Bello Isah Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “SIM Cards”, *leave out* all other words (*Hon. Osawaru Billy Famous Adesuwa — Orhinmwon/Thunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (i) as amended, immediately after the words “SIM Cards”, *insert* the words “and block the messaging portal from receiving messages” (*Hon. Ugonna Ozurigbo — Isu/Njaba/Nkwere/Nwangele Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (ii), and *insert* as follows:
“mandate the Committees on Telecommunications and Populations to engage the Nigerian Communications Commission, Mobile Operators and National Identity Management Commission on any measure that need to be taken, particularly on Security” (*Hon. Ugonna Ozurigbo — Isu/Njaba/Nkwere/Nwangele Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the role played by SIM cards cannot be over emphasized in this age of "information, Communications Technology;

Also noted that mobile communications system in the country has made it easier for banditry to thrive unhindered as their activities are facilitated by the use of illegally registered SIM cards.

Aware that SIM cards activation are used to connect family members by bandits; facilitate communication with logistics .suppliers; such as weapons, contact of family of victims and eventually payment-of ransom is are done through mobile communication which call to question the failure or due diligence of Security apparatus;

Cognizant that the Nigerian Communications Commission Act, 2003, which established the power and authority to regulate the provision and the use of all communication services in Nigeria;

Convinced of the compelling need to declare a state of emergency in to address the indiscriminate sale of SIM cards in Illela Gwadabawa Federal Constituency and Nigeria in general.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Communications Commission to deactivate illegally registered SIM Cards and block the messaging portal from receiving messages;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Telecommunications and Populations to engage the Nigerian Communications Commission, Mobile Operators and National Identity Management Commission on any measure that need to be taken, particularly on Security;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to interface with the Nigerian Telecommunication Commission to fashion out sustainable regulatory framework to eliminate all forms illegalities in the system (**HR. 111/07/2023**).

24. Need to Develop Skills Acquisition Centre in Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency of Lagos State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency, with a dense population of 2.6 million, is divided into six wards. It is a skill acquisition center that will promote industry and commerce skills, generate indigenously trained manpower in the constituency and across other constituencies, and encourage the acquisition of skills in industry and commerce to generate a pool of indigenously trained manpower for the Nigerian economy;

Also notes that Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency has no single skill acquisition center to train the constituents in order to be self-reliant and dependent, especially in this period when the economy is not stable;

Further notes that Improving skill development and acquisition can boost the nation's economy, promote economic growth, self-employment, and national development while ensuring proper employment;

Aware that Skill acquisition involves training individuals to develop entrepreneurial spirit and ideas for meaningful development, which will in turn reduce youth restiveness, unemployment, and self-reliance, promoting youth empowerment;

Also aware that if individuals are given the opportunity to acquire necessary skills for self-sustenance in the economy, it promotes charisma and exposes youths to sustainable paid and self-employment, leading to poverty reduction and improved welfare status in constituencies;

Cognizant that Youth restiveness is a global issue causing increased crime, social unrest, and economic instability, establishing a skill acquisition center is crucial to addressing youth restiveness and promoting socio-economic development;

Also cognizant that Nigeria's skill acquisition programme has not had a significant impact on the following:

- (a) the Green Revolution program, which was in response to the programs of Operation Feed the Nation in 1976,

- (b) the School-to-Land Program and Skill Acquisition Program of 1978,
- (c) the Youth Employment and Vocational Skill Development Scheme (NDE) in 1986,
- (d) The small scale industrial and graduate farmer programs of NDE in 1988,
- (e) the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme of 1988;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to recruit skilled craftsmen and women to teach at acquisition centres, while yearly censuses of eager youths should be conducted to ensure the program's viability and prevent negligence;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to establish acquisition workshops in the Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency and gradually in all 360 Constituencies of the Federation;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment, and Productivity (*when constituted*) in collaboration with agencies like NBTE, NDE, ITF to establish acquisition centers to combat youth restiveness (*Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi — Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency, with a dense population of 2.6 million, is divided into six wards. It is a skill acquisition center that will promote industry and commerce skills, generate indigenously trained manpower in the constituency and across other constituencies, and encourage the acquisition of skills in industry and commerce to generate a pool of indigenously trained manpower for the Nigerian economy;

Also noted that Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency has no single skill acquisition center to train the constituents in order to be self-reliant and dependent, especially in this period when the economy is not stable;

Further noted that Improving skill development and acquisition can boost the nation's economy, promote economic growth, self-employment, and national development while ensuring proper employment;

Aware that Skill acquisition involves training individuals to develop entrepreneurial spirit and ideas for meaningful development, which will in turn reduce youth restiveness, unemployment, and self-reliance, promoting youth empowerment;

Also aware that if individuals are given the opportunity to acquire necessary skills for self-sustenance in the economy, it promotes charisma and exposes youths to sustainable paid and self-employment, leading to poverty reduction and improved welfare status in constituencies;

Cognizant that Youth restiveness is a global issue causing increased crime, social unrest, and economic instability, establishing a skill acquisition center is crucial to addressing youth restiveness and promoting socio-economic development;

Also cognizant that Nigeria's skill acquisition programme has not had a significant impact on the following:

- (a) the Green Revolution program, which was in response to the programs of Operation Feed the Nation in 1976,
- (b) the School-to-Land Program and Skill Acquisition Program of 1978,
- (c) the Youth Employment and Vocational Skill Development Scheme (NDE) in 1986,
- (d) The small scale industrial and graduate farmer programs of NDE in 1988,
- (e) the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme of 1988;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to recruit skilled craftsmen and women to teach at acquisition centres, while yearly censuses of eager youths should be conducted to ensure the program's viability and prevent negligence;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to establish acquisition workshops in the Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency and gradually in all 360 Constituencies of the Federation;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment, and Productivity (*when constituted*) in collaboration with agencies like NBTE, NDE, ITF to establish acquisition centers to combat youth restiveness (**HR. 112/07/2023**).

25. Need to Address Incessant Banditry Attacks in Gwer West, Markurdi and Guma Local Government Areas of Benue State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the important role of the State in the provision of maximum security of lives and properties of all citizens of our Nation, as enshrined in Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Aware of the recent occupation by a large number of bandits at the boundary villages of Benue State with Nassarawa State, resulting in wanton killings, kidnapping and harassment of farmers and the rural communities of Gwer West, Makurdi and Guma Local Government Areas and other communities in Benue State;

Saddened that so many innocent and valuable lives have been wasted in the boundaries of Benue State with Nassarawa State, the most recent being the killing on 4 July, 2023 of Tersoo Magah, a graduate of ABU, Zaria by herdsmen in Mbabai ward, while on 20 June, 2023, Nyitwev Ushir and Iorgerem Ushir were killed in Nzorov ward; and on 25 June, 2023, Joseph Torjeem of Tse Der, Nyiev was killed by the bandits. Continuing on this saga on 27 June, 2023, Joseph Serga was chased and killed in his village, and all these unwarranted attacks are unabated, over forty(40) lives have been lost in the last week in Benue State, in this regard;

Also aware that the marauding bandits have been left to operate unhindered, and have built up the resilience, capacity and courage to drive away the farmers from their ancestral homes thereby denying them access to their farms and means of livelihood;

Concerned with the utmost implication of having a roving community of farmers across the farming regions of Benue State, without steady and peaceful settlements to practice their profession and livelihood of producing surplus food crops to feed the citizens;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe one-minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government of Nigeria to direct the Joint Security Task Force stationed in Benue State to initiate a full coordinated security operation, with aerial surveillance and other necessary combat mission plans to flush out the bandits, to allow the farmers to return to their farmlands to continue to ensure adequate food production within a secured environment;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to facilitate the resettlement of the displaced persons to their ancestral homes;
- (iv) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to assuage the sufferings of the affected communities who have been unable to access their farmlands, and many of them now in IDP Camps in Agagbe, Naka, Makurdi, Gbajimba and other IDP camps in Benue State;
- (v) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the deplorable condition of the displaced villagers at the border communities of Benue State with Nassarawa State and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Austine Asema Achado — Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (v), *leave out* the words “set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee”, and *insert* the words “mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Defence” (*Hon. Avia Musa Agah — Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the important role of the State in the provision of maximum security of lives and properties of all citizens of our Nation, as enshrined in Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Aware of the recent occupation by a large number of bandits at the boundary villages of Benue State with Nassarawa State, resulting in wanton killings, kidnapping and harassment of farmers and the rural communities of Gwer West, Makurdi and Guma Local Government Areas and other communities in Benue State;

Saddened that so many innocent and valuable lives have been wasted in the boundaries of Benue State with Nassarawa State, the most recent being the killing on 4 July, 2023 of Tersoo Magah, a graduate of ABU, Zaria by herdsmen in Mbabai ward, while on 20 June, 2023, Nyitwev Ushir and Iorgerem Ushir were killed in Nzorov ward; and on 25 June, 2023, Joseph Torjeem of Tse Der, Nyiev was killed by the bandits. Continuing on this saga on 27 June, 2023, Joseph Serga was chased and killed in his village, and all these unwarranted attacks are unabated, over forty(40) lives have been lost in the last week in Benue State, in this regard;

Also aware that the marauding bandits have been left to operate unhindered, and have built up the resilience, capacity and courage to drive away the farmers from their ancestral homes thereby denying them access to their farms and means of livelihood;

Concerned with the utmost implication of having a roving community of farmers across the farming regions of Benue State, without steady and peaceful settlements to practice their profession and livelihood of producing surplus food crops to feed the citizens;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe one-minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government of Nigeria to direct the Joint Security Task Force stationed in Benue State to initiate a full coordinated security operation, with aerial surveillance and other necessary combat mission plans to flush out the bandits, to allow the farmers to return to their farmlands to continue to ensure adequate food production within a secured environment;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to facilitate the resettlement of the displaced persons to their ancestral homes;
- (iv) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to assuage the sufferings of the affected communities who have been unable to access their farmlands, and many of them now in IDP Camps in Agagbe, Naka, Makurdi, Gbajimba and other IDP camps in Benue State;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Defence (*when constituted*) to investigate the deplorable condition of the displaced villagers at the border communities of Benue State with Nassarawa State and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 113/07/2023**).

26. Need to Complete the Delayed Contract for the Dualization of the Kano-Katsina Highway.

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Kano-Katsina Highway connects regional markets, affects international commodity markets like Dawanau, Bichi, Tsanyawa, Kankia, Charanchi, and Katsina city markets between Nigeria and the Niger Republic;

Also notes that the Federal Executive Council approved a contract for dualizing the route in 2013, with CCECC receiving an initial sum of ₦29.6 billion. Section I is fully completed, covering 74 km from Dawanau to Tsanyawa, while Section II is still not completed;

Recalls that on January 30, 2022, the Minister of Works inspected the project, promised to pay the contractor pending a valuation certificate, and approved ₦16.82 billion for project completion;

Observes that Construction stopped mid-year and most of the areas sighted for compensation were not fully paid;

Aware that no compensation was paid as approved in the contract agreement and that caused great worry to the owners of the properties along the measured project site;

Also aware that continued neglect of that project might lead to the total failure of the old lane due to its deteriorated state and deep potholes that become death traps for commuters;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to aggressively commence the rehabilitation of the old single lane;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works and FERMA (*when constituted*) to investigate the cause of delay in the dualization of the Kano-Katsina Highway and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Murtala Usman Manye — Batagarawa/Charanchi/Rimi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 114/07/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and FERMA (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

27. Need to Investigate the Open Letter by Aggrieved Prison Official to the President

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in recent times, the security situation in Nigeria has become common place with no exception to the place of attack;

Also notes that there have been attacks from terrorist groups and non-state actors on the military formations and barracks, Police Stations and Headquarters, as well as importantly correctional facilities, with recorded fatalities and casualties;

Further notes that the recorded successful attacks on these sensitive securities locations have stirred public reactions that bothered the control, management, discipline and compromise within the system helping the operations of the criminals during the attacks. The former President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan described the Kuje incident as an insider job";

Aware that in the past, especially jailbreaks in correctional facilities in which Nigeria, the attacks on security locations were only seen on TV; now its occurrences in real life have become incessant Jailbreaks in 2004 (1), 2007 (1), 2010 (1), 2012 (1), 2013 (2), 2014 (5), 2020 (6), 2021 (6) and 2022;

Worried that there were three jailbreaks between January and July 2022, in Mandala, Kwara State on 2 January, 2022, Agbor correctional facility, Delta State in May 2022, and Kuje Prison in July 2022. In each of these jailbreaks, inmates escaped and the facility was torched during the Kuje priSon break that occurred in July 2022, 879 inmates including 64 terrorists affiliated with Islamic State (IS) escaped;

Disturbed that the recent letter written by aggrieved Nigerian Correctional Service personnel to the President as reported in the Sahara Reporters of July 10, 2023 stating that officials now borrow money from inmates is a testimony to the numerous shady activities within the system, and validating public concern on the allegations of corruption and poor management of the facilities fuelling 'inside job' assertions to the attacks in the country;

Also worried that collecting money in the form of any guise has implications. It could be a case of He who pays the piper calls the tune, jailbreaks and other terrible illicit activities will become a more recurring decimal if nothing is done;

Convinced that an intervention from the House of Representatives will unravel the cankerworms which could have caused major laxities and eventually restore sanity to the country's correctional services and operations;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Comptroller General of the Nigerian Correctional Institutions to undertake a staff audit of all employees of the agency and review the service codes of conduct between prisoners and staff of Nigeria Correctional Service;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Reformatory Institutions (*when constituted*) to investigate the state of the Nigerian Correctional Service and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Ugonna Ozurigo — Isu/Njaba/Nkwere/Nwangele Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in recent times, the security situation in Nigeria has become common place with no exception to the place of attack;

Also noted that there have been attacks from terrorist groups and non-state actors on the military formations and barracks, Police Stations and Headquarters, as well as importantly correctional facilities, with recorded fatalities and casualties;

Further noted that the recorded successful attacks on these sensitive securities locations have stirred public reactions that bothered the control, management, discipline and compromise within the system helping the operations of the criminals during the attacks. The former President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan described the Kuje incident as an insider job";

Aware that in the past, especially jailbreaks in correctional facilities in which Nigeria, the attacks on security locations were only seen on TV; now its occurrences in real life have become incessant Jailbreaks in 2004 (1), 2007 (1), 2010 (1), 2012 (1), 2013 (2), 2014 (5), 2020 (6), 2021 (6) and 2022;

Worried that there were three jailbreaks between January and July 2022, in Mandala, Kwara State on 2 January, 2022, Agbor correctional facility, Delta State in May 2022, and Kuje Prison in July 2022. In each of these jailbreaks, inmates escaped and the facility was torched during the Kuje priSon break that occurred in July 2022, 879 inmates including 64 terrorists affiliated with Islamic State (IS) escaped;

Disturbed that the recent letter written by aggrieved Nigerian Correctional Service personnel to the President as reported in the Sahara Reporters of July 10, 2023 stating that officials now borrow money from inmates is a testimony to the numerous shady activities within the system, and validating public concern on the allegations of corruption and poor management of the facilities fuelling 'inside job' assertions to the attacks in the country;

Also worried that collecting money in the form of any guise has implications. It could be a case of He who pays the piper calls the tune, jailbreaks and other terrible illicit activities will become a more recurring decimal if nothing is done;

Convinced that an intervention from the House of Representatives will unravel the cankerworms which could have caused major laxities and eventually restore sanity to the country's correctional services and operations;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Comptroller General of the Nigerian Correctional Institutions to undertake a staff

audit of all employees of the agency and review the service codes of conduct between prisoners and staff of Nigeria Correctional Service;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Reformatory Institutions (*when constituted*) to investigate the state of the Nigerian Correctional Service and report within three (3) weeks (**HR. 115/07/2023**).

28. Revive Federal Government-Assisted Urban Mass Transit Schedule for Inter-State and Intra-State Transport

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that sequel to the removal of subsidy on refined petroleum products and the premium motor spirit (PMS) in particular, the cost of transportation of humans, goods, and services within cities, intrastate and inter-states had more than doubled and in some instances tripled thereby causing untold hardships to the majority of Nigerians;

Concerned that the Federal Government's Urban Mass Transit Scheme and Public Mass Transit Revolving Fund Scheme failed to address transportation challenges in Nigeria. In 2016, the Public Mass Transit Revolving Fund Scheme, which employed 50,000 Nigerians, failed to provide adequate employment opportunities;

Also aware that the Abuja Bus Service (ABS) established in 1984 by the then Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory later transformed into the Abuja Urban Mass Transport Company Limited (AUMTCO), aimed to develop an environmentally friendly, sustainable urban public transport system in the Federal Capital Territory;

Worried that Abuja Urban Mass Transport Company Limited, Nigeria's largest bus transportation company, has failed to provide the best value for money and safest bus hire service. The ₦1.3 billion project, intended to procure over 500 high-capacity buses for Federal Capital Territory routes, has failed to deliver desired services;

Concerned that Abuja Metro rail, costing \$824 million with 60% funding from China, which covers 290 km in six phases, commissioned in 2018, but currently not operational;

Also worried that Millions of commuters face difficulties in commuting due to insufficient mass transit vehicles, exposing them to dangers like harassment, kidnapping, and robbery, especially at high costs;

Cognizant that primary purpose of government is ensuring citizen welfare, as enshrined in Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Desirous of providing Nigerians with efficient and affordable transport schemes to ameliorate the suffering as a result of the removal of subsidies on premium motor spirit (PMS) and its attendant high prices;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to revive the Public Mass Transit Scheme and Urban Mass Transit Scheme to ameliorate the suffering of Nigerians and mobilize the economy;
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the failures in Nigeria's Mass Transit Schemes to find sustainable solutions and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Olumide Osoba Babatunde — Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency and 2 Others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(i) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*

“Urge the Executive Arm of Government and relevant authorities to as a matter urgency look into the process of converting mass transit buses to gas powered and hybrid engines which are more cost effective and environmentally friendly” (*Hon. Onuoha Miriam Odinaka — Isiala Mbano/Okigwe/Onuimo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(ii) *Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:*

“Urge the Executive Arm of Government to embark on Public Private Partnership arrangement for prudent management of the buses to avoid history repeating itself” (*Hon. Amadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that sequel to the removal of subsidy on refined petroleum products and the premium motor spirit (PMS) in particular, the cost of transportation of humans, goods, and services within cities, intrastate and inter-states had more than doubled and in some instances tripled thereby causing untold hardships to the majority of Nigerians;

Concerned that the Federal Government's Urban Mass Transit Scheme and Public Mass Transit Revolving Fund Scheme failed to address transportation challenges in Nigeria. In 2016, the Public Mass Transit Revolving Fund Scheme, which employed 50,000 Nigerians, failed to provide adequate employment opportunities;

Also aware that the Abuja Bus Service (ABS) established in 1984 by the then Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory later transformed into the Abuja Urban Mass Transport Company Limited (AUMTCO), aimed to develop an environmentally friendly, sustainable urban public transport system in the Federal Capital Territory;

Worried that Abuja Urban Mass Transport Company Limited, Nigeria's largest bus transportation company, has failed to provide the best value for money and safest bus hire service. The ₦1.3 billion project, intended to procure over 500 high-capacity buses for Federal Capital Territory routes, has failed to deliver desired services;

Concerned that Abuja Metro rail, costing \$824 million with 60% funding from China, which covers 290 km in six phases, commissioned in 2018, but currently not operational;

Also worried that Millions of commuters face difficulties in commuting due to insufficient mass transit vehicles, exposing them to dangers like harassment, kidnapping, and robbery, especially at high costs;

Cognizant that primary purpose of government is ensuring citizen welfare, as enshrined in Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Desirous of providing Nigerians with efficient and affordable transport schemes to ameliorate the suffering as a result of the removal of subsidies on premium motor spirit (PMS) and its attendant high prices;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to revive the Public Mass Transit Scheme and Urban Mass Transit Scheme to ameliorate the suffering of Nigerians and mobilize the economy;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government and relevant authorities to as a matter urgency look into the process of converting mass transit buses to gas powered and hybrid engines which are more cost effective and environmentally friendly;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to embark on Public Private Partnership arrangement for prudent management of the buses to avoid history repeating its self;
- (iv) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the failures in Nigeria's Mass Transit Schemes to find sustainable solutions and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 116/04/2023**).

29. Need to Address Total Blackout in Makarfi-Kudan Federal Constituency Due to Electricity Infrastrucure Vandalisation

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria aims to develop 10,000 MW of electricity by 2023, addressing decades of inadequate and unreliable power supply, aiming to improve the nation's electricity infrastructure;

Also notes that Electricity targets are under serious threat due to frequent attacks on national power assets, including Makarfi-kudan federal constituency, in various parts of the country;

Worried that Nationwide electricity infrastructure destruction of TCN power line is a concern;

Also worried that the most frustrating incident that happened a year and three months ago, in Makarfi and Kudan local government areas of Kaduna State, nearly all electricity cables were vandalized and carted away by vandals, causing concern and frustration;

Concerned this the single act in Makarfi and Kudan local government has caused significant economic loss and security threats, including arm robbery and kidnapping. Failure to address this menace could lead to a collapse and paralyze economic activities;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to investigate and come-up with effective strategy to nip this menace in due time;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Power through the Committee on Power (*when constituted*) to intervene, give prompt consideration to the communities attacked, and reinstall the infrastructure vandalized with a view to restoring light to the communities which comprises of the two Local Government Makarfi and Kudan Federal Constituency of Kaduna State;
- (iii) further urge the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the Nigeria Police and others agencies to patrol lines, arrest and prosecute dealers in metals scrap, copper and aluminum conductors;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Power (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Umar Shehu Ajilo — Igabi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria aims to develop 10,000 MW of electricity by 2023, addressing decades of inadequate and unreliable power supply, aiming to improve the nation's electricity infrastructure;

Also noted that Electricity targets are under serious threat due to frequent attacks on national power assets, including Makarfi-kudan federal constituency, in various parts of the country;

Worried that Nationwide electricity infrastructure destruction of TCN power line is a concern;

Also worried that the most frustrating incident that happened a year and three months ago, in Makarfi and Kudan local government areas of Kaduna State, nearly all electricity cables were vandalized and carted away by vandals, causing concern and frustration;

Concerned this the single act in Makarfi and Kudan local government has caused significant economic loss and security threats, including arm robbery and kidnapping. Failure to address this menace could lead to a collapse and paralyze economic activities;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to investigate and come-up with effective strategy to nip this menace in due time;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Power through the Committee on Power (*when constituted*) to intervene, give prompt consideration to the communities attacked, and reinstall the infrastructure vandalized with a view to restoring light to the communities which comprises of the two Local Government Makarfi and Kudan Federal Constituency of Kaduna State;
- (iii) further urge the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the Nigeria Police and others agencies to patrol lines, arrest and prosecute dealers in metals scrap, copper and aluminum conductors;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Power (when constituted) to ensure compliance (**HR. 117/07/2023**).

30. Consideration of Reports

- (i) ***A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act, Cap. D4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Enact the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act, 2023 to Operate, Maintain and Control Subsidiaries and Ordnance Factories for the Manufacture, Storage and Disposal of Ordnance and Ancillary Stores and Material; provide a Comprehensive Framework for the Regulation of the Manufacture, Distribution, Storage and Disposal of Defence Articles, Support Research activities in Defence Related Fields and for Related Matters (HB.99) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act, Cap. D4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Enact the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act, 2023 to Operate, Maintain and Control Subsidiaries and Ordnance Factories for the Manufacture, Storage and Disposal of Ordnance and Ancillary Stores and Material; provide a Comprehensive Framework for the Regulation of the Manufacture, Distribution, Storage and Disposal of Defence Articles, Support Research activities in Defence Related Fields and for Related Matters (HB.99)" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE DEFENCE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF NIGERIA ACT, CAP. D4, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004, AND RE-ENACT THE DEFENCE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF NIGERIA ACT, 2023 TO OPERATE, MAINTAIN AND CONTROL SUBSIDIARIES AND ORDNANCE FACTORIES FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF ORDNANCE AND ANCILLARY STORES AND MATERIAL; PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE REGULATION OF THE MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF DEFENCE ARTICLES, SUPPORT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN DEFENCE RELATED FIELDS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 99)

PART I — OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION

Clause 1: Objectives.

The objectives of this Bill are to —

- (a) strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the operation, maintenance and control of subsidiaries and ordnance factories for the manufacture, storage and disposal of ordnance and ancillary stores and material; and
- (b) regulate and ensure improvement in local production of weapons and other equipment to meet the requirement of the Nigeria Armed Forces and other security agencies, reduce reliance on foreign suppliers, and develop local capabilities and standardisation through research and development in the defence industry (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Application.

This Bill applies throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART II — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEFENCE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF NIGERIA AND ITS GOVERNING BOARD

Clause 3: Establishment of the Defence Industry Corporation of Nigeria.

- (1) There is established a body known as the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria ("the Corporation").
- (2) The Corporation shall be a holding company wholly State-owned with equity of varying degrees in several defence and aerospace subsidiaries and associated companies.

- (3) The Corporation —
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession, a common seal;
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (c) may own, acquire or dispose of property, whether movable or immovable, for the purpose of performing its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Governing Board of the Corporation.

- (1) There is established for the Corporation, a Governing Board ("the Board") which shall consist of the —
 - (a) Chairman, who shall be the Minister;
 - (b) Permanent Secretaries or representative of the Federal Ministries responsible for:
 - (i) Industry, Trade and Investment,
 - (ii) Finance,
 - (iii) Science and Technology,
 - (iv) Interior, and
 - (v) Foreign Affairs;
 - (c) Chief of Defence Staff;
 - (d) Chief of Army Staff / Chief of Naval Staff;
 - (e) Chief of Air Staff;
 - (f) Inspector General of Police;
 - (g) Director General;
 - (h) Representative of the Defence Industry Association of Nigeria; and
 - (i) Permanent Secretary of Ministry responsible for Defence, who shall be Secretary.
- (2) Where a member of the Board is appointed as a representative under subsection (1) (b) and (i) of this section, the member may be replaced by the Permanent Secretary of the relevant Ministry or the Association respectively.
- (3) The supplementary provisions set out in the First Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and other matters mentioned therein (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Emolument, etc. of members.

The Chairman and members of the Board shall be paid such emoluments, allowances and benefits as may, from time to time, determined by extant rules and directed by the Federal Government (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 6: Powers of the Board.

The Board shall have power to —

- (a) formulate policy guidelines for the management of the affairs of the Corporation;
- (b) appoint, promote, terminate, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over the principal officers and senior staff of the Corporation;
- (c) structure the Corporation into such number of departments as it deems fit for the effective discharge of the functions of the Corporation;
- (d) ratify the appointment or, extension of the appointment of contract officers of management levels, managing agent and external auditor for the Corporation and any other appointment above the Corporations Management;
- (e) approve the external auditors professional fee; and
- (f) do such other things which the Board may consider necessary and desirable for the effective performance of its duties under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: Functions and powers of the Corporation.

(1) The Corporation shall —

- (a) be charged with the operation, maintenance and control of ordnance factories for the manufacture, storage and disposal of materiel intended for or. capable of being used by the armed forces, other security agencies and such other forces or persons as may be authorised;
- (b) be charged with the inspection and testing, as the case may be, of ordnance, materiel and explosives;
- (c) be charged with capacity building in military technology;
- (d) collaborate with local and international bodies for the purpose of research development, and technology advancement in the defence industry;
- (e) develop, utilize, market and export normal and advanced military technologies;
- (f) complement the civil non-defence technological needs of Nigeria, where possible;

- (g) initiate and manage technological projects required in actualizing the objectives or responsibilities of the Corporation;
 - (h) support and maintain any defence industrial capabilities, resources and technologies designated by the Ministry as strategic and essential for the national defence needs of Nigeria;
 - (i) coordinate, harmonise and supervise the general planning of defence and allied industries specifically or mainly set up to produce for the armed forces and other security agencies and encourage other industries within the economy to produce for the general consumers, the armed forces and other security agencies, where the need arises;
 - (j) establish and monitor programmes and plans for giving effect to any policy, direction and recommendation of the Minister;
 - (k) collaborate with all the armed forces production units, research and development outfits, allied companies in partnership with armed forces and other local industries involved in military hardware and software production for the actualization and establishment of military industrial complex;
 - (l) develop and embark on reverse engineering of sophisticated systems for military applications;
 - (m) monitor current technological trends as well as anticipated future advances by articulating technology domestication process in relation to defence industry;
 - (n) have power to purchase military industrial licences from advanced nations with strong and formidable defence industries and Military Industrial Complex (MIC);
 - (o) initiate and consolidate the co-production of strategic military hardware with advanced countries;
 - (p) train managerial, technical and such other staff for the purpose of running of its operations; and
 - (q) perform such other duties as specified under this Bill.
- (2) Without prejudice to the functions and powers of the Corporation under subsection (1) of this Section, the Corporation shall have power to establish or acquire any factory or manufacturing industry which shall be used as an ordnance factory or ancillary factory including vehicles factory, small arms factory, electronic factory, ordnance equipment factory, ordnance clothing factory, heavy vehicle factory, ammunition factory, cordite Factory, field-gun factory, gun carriage factory, grey iron factory, gun and shell factory, heavy alloy and penetrator factory, heavy vehicle factory, machine tool prototype factory, metal and steel factory, and any other defence related factory.
- (3) The Corporation may —
- (a) enter into contracts in form of joint venture partnerships or collaborations; and

- (b) establish joint venture companies.
- (4) Any contracts entered into by the Corporation pursuant to subsection (3) of this section shall only be monitored, controlled, evaluated, supervised and regulated by the President or through the Minister (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: Operation of ordnance factories.

- (1) The Corporation shall operate ordnance factories and subsidiaries under its control to be headed by managing directors who shall be responsible to the Corporation where the Corporation is the core investor in the subsidiary.
- (2) The ordnance factory and subsidiary referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall operate on a sound commercial basis to —
 - (a) fill the normal defence requirements of the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security agencies; and
 - (b) meet requests from other countries as may be approved by the Government of Nigeria.
- (3) Where there is any surplus capacity in the operations of the ordnance or subsidiary factory, the Director General shall advise the Minister and the Minister with the approval of the President, may direct that such surplus capacity be adapted where necessary and be used towards meeting the civilian needs of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Establishment of subsidiary companies.

- (1) The Board shall have power to set up subsidiaries in partnership with local and international companies towards meeting the materiel needs of the armed forces and other security agencies through wholesale ownership or acquiring equities in enterprises with relevant products.
- (2) Where the Corporation has controlling shares and is the core investor, the subsidiary shall be responsible to the Corporation.
- (3) Where the Corporation do not hold the controlling share in a subsidiary, the subsidiary shall be independent of the Corporation, provided that it continues to operate in accordance with the provisions of the law and generates return on investment to the Corporation.
- (4) The subsidiaries shall have —
 - (a) a board consisting of a representative of the Corporation as member; and
 - (b) an executive management team in the subsidiaries taking charge of the business (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 10: Exclusive right to produce and supply arms and ammunition in Nigeria.

- (1) Where the ordnance factories under the Corporation's control is capable of producing and supplying the armament requirements of the armed forces and other security agencies, the Corporation shall have the exclusive preserve to produce and make such supplies.
- (2) The armed forces, police and other security agencies authorised to possess and use weapons or other items categorised as defence items shall —
 - (a) purchase weapons or defence items from the Corporation; or
 - (b) from other licensed manufacturers or distributors, where the Corporation is unable to supply the items.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of the Explosives Act and any other relevant law, the Corporation shall have exclusive right of purchase, manufacture and sale of explosives (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Establishment of defence procurement committee.

- (1) There is established for the Corporation a Defence Procurement Committee, which shall consist of the —
 - (a) Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence as the Chairman;
 - (b) a representative of the —
 - (i) Office of the National Security Adviser,
 - (ii) Ministry of Defence,
 - (iii) Ministry of Interior;
 - (c) Chief of Defence Staff;
 - (d) Chief of Army Staff;
 - (e) Chief of Naval Staff;
 - (f) Chief of Air Staff;
 - (g) Inspector General of Police: and
 - (h) Director General of the Corporation.
- (2) The Director of the Public Procurement of the Ministry of Defence shall be the Secretary of the Committee.
- (3) Where the Corporation and licensees under this Bill are not able to meet the materiel requirements of the armed forces and other security agencies, the Committee shall have powers to —
 - (a) consider and approve procurement related to the importation of defence and materiel equipment; and

- (b) facilitate the importation through the Corporation, defence items to be used by the Armed forces and other security agencies.
- (4) A defence item shall not be imported for and on behalf of the Armed forces and other security agencies without the prior approval of the Committee (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Defence Industries Data Bank.

- (1) The armed forces and other security agencies shall at the end of every fiscal year submit to the Corporation for data storage all its actual and speculated defence requirement.
- (2) Data collected and stored pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall form the Defence Industries Data Bank for the Corporation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 13: Safeguarding of Information, Records, Property and Premises.

- (1) The Corporation shall take such measures as are necessary for the safeguarding and protecting of —
 - (a) information, records and property of, or under the control of the Corporation; or
 - (b) any premises where the activities of the Corporation is being performed.
- (2) Where the Corporation takes any measures specified in subsection (1) of this section, it shall cause a notice to be published or such warnings to be erected as may in each case be necessary to notify the public of any danger or harm which may be caused by such measures (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART III — DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND OTHER STAFF OF THE CORPORATION

Clause 14: Appointment and powers of the Director-General.

- (1) The President shall, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint a Director General of the Corporation, who shall be a serving or retired military officer not below the rank of a Brigadier General or its equivalent with experience in engineering and armament.
- (2) The Director General shall be the chief executive and accounting officer of the Corporation and shall be responsible for the —
 - (a) day to day running of the corporation;
 - (b) executive control over other staff of the Corporation;
 - (c) supervision of accounts and records; and
 - (d) preparation for approval of sectional programmes and plans

necessary to carry into effect approved policy or any directions of the Corporation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Tenure of office of the Director-General.

- (1) The Director General shall hold office for a single term of four years in the first instance and may be renewable for another term of four years and no more.
- (2) Nothing in this Bill shall prevent a serving Director General from completing his tenure of office notwithstanding his retirement from the armed forces of Nigeria before the end of his tenure, whichever is applicable.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this Section, the Director-General, on the recommendation of the Minister, may be suspended or removed from Office by the President if he —
 - (a) has demonstrated inability to effectively perform the duties of his Office;
 - (b) is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his duties as Director General;
 - (c) is guilty of conflict of interest in the discharge of his duties;
 - (d) becomes of unsound mind or, owing to ill health, is incapable of carrying out his duties;
 - (e) is convicted of any criminal offence by a court of competent jurisdiction, except for traffic offences or contempt proceedings arising in connection with the execution or intended execution of any power or duty conferred under this Bill or any other law;
 - (f) becomes bankrupt; or
 - (g) is removed by the President in the interest of the public (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 16: Staff of the Corporation.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Corporation may, with the approval of the Board, appoint directly or on secondment or transfer from the public service, such staff as it considers necessary —
 - (a) for the effective discharge of its functions under this Bill: and
 - (b) on such terms and condition as may be specified by the Corporation.
- (2) The secondment of a public servant to the Corporation pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall not affect the pension rights, which, but for the secondment may accrue or become due, owing and payable to such public servant.

- (3) A person seconded to the Corporation may elect to transfer his service to the Corporation, and any previous service in the public service of the Federation shall count as service for the purposes of any pension subsequently payable.
- (4) Where any member of the public service is transferred to the Corporation, his former service with the public service of the Federation shall be taken into account in any computation prescribed in the Pensions Reform Act (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 17: Service in the Corporation.

- (1) Service in the Corporation shall be subject to the provisions of the Pension Reform Act and staff of the Corporation shall be entitled to pension and other retirement benefits as prescribed under the Pensions Reform Act.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on conditions which preclude the grant of a pension, gratuity or other retirement benefits in respect of that office.
- (3) For the application of the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, any power exercisable by a Minister or other authority of the Government other than the power to make regulations under the Pension Reform Act is vested in and shall be exercisable by the Board and not by any other person or authority (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 18: Staff Regulations and Discipline.

Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Corporation may, with the approval of the Board, make staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the staff, and such regulations may provide for —

- (a) the appointment, promotion, and disciplinary control of staff of the Corporation; and
- (b) appeals by staff against dismissal or other disciplinary measures and until such regulations are made any instrument relating to conditions of service in the Public Service of the Federation shall be applicable, with such modifications as may be necessary, to the staff of the Corporation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART IV — REGULATIONS AND LICENSING

Clause 19: Regulation and Licensing of Manufacturers of Defence Articles.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of the Firearms Act, the Corporation shall be responsible for issuing licenses to manufacturers, distributors, sellers and persons involved in leasing of defence articles in Nigeria,
- (2) The Minister shall make regulations for licensing and regulation of the manufacture, distribution, sale and lease of defence articles.

- (3) Defence items shall be items included in a list issued by the Minister from time to time.
- (4) Regulations made under this section shall specify offences and penalties for non-compliance and other requirement for licensing, including licensing fees and levies to be charged by the Corporation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 19 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 20: Items Produced by Private Manufactures.

Items produced by private manufacturers under this Bill shall be offered first to the Corporation for purchase and where the Corporation issues a notice of non-purchase, the manufacturer shall be entitled to sell the items domestically or export the Defence items in accordance with the provisions of relevant laws and regulation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 20 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART V — FINANCIAL PROVISION

Clause 21: Funds of the Corporation.

- (1) There is established a fund for the corporation ("the Fund") into which shall be credited —
 - (a) budgetary allocation by the National Assembly;
 - (b) monies provided by the Government for the acquisition of relevant defence production capabilities, including missile and aerospace technology;
 - (c) monies received from the process of any sale, hire or any of the services rendered by the Corporation; and
 - (d) monies as may accrue from such other sources consistent with the objectives and functions of the Corporation.
- (2) The Fund established under subsection (1) of this section shall be applied —
 - (a) to the advancement of the objectives of this Bill;
 - (b) to the cost of administration of the Corporation;
 - (c) for the development and maintenance of any property vested in or owned by the Corporation; and
 - (d) for any other expenditure in connection with any of the functions of the Corporation under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 21 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 22: Research and Development Fund of the Corporation.

- (1) There is established a Research and Development Fund for the Corporation into which shall be credited five percent of the amount of every procurement

made directly from the Corporation or other vendors, by each of the armed forces and other security agencies.

- (2) The five percent referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be deducted at source and credited to the Research and Development Fund at every transaction within thirty days from the date of purchase.
- (3) Where any contribution is not paid within the time specified in subsection (2) of this section, a sum equal to ten percent of the unpaid sum shall be added for each month or part of a month after the date on which payment should have been made.
- (4) The Research and Development Fund established under this section shall be applied for —
 - (a) research and development consistent with the objective of this Bill and functions of the Corporation;
 - (b) building in military technology; and
 - (c) local and international collaboration in research and development including science and technology consistent with the objective of this Bill and functions of the Corporation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 22 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 23: Annual Estimates and Accounts.

- (1) The Corporation shall not later than 30th September in each financial year prepare and present to the Minister for approval, a statement of estimated income and expenditure for the following financial year.
- (2) The Corporation shall keep proper accounts in respect of each year and proper records in relation to those accounts and shall cause its accounts to be audited within six months after the end of each year by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 23 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 24: Annual Reports.

The Corporation shall prepare and submit to the Minister not later than 30th June in each year a report on the activities of the Corporation during the preceding year, and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the Corporation for that year and of the auditor's report thereon (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 24 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 25: Power to Accept Gifts.

- (1) The Corporation may accept gifts of land, money, or other property on such terms and conditions if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the gift.
- (2) The Corporation shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the

person or organization making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Corporation under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 25 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 26: Power to Borrow.

Subject to extant laws, regulations and policies, the Corporation, with the approval of the Minister, may borrow by way of loan, overdraft or otherwise from institutional sources such sums as it may require in the exercise of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 26 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

**PART VI — ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

Clause 27: Establishment of Technology, Research and Development Institute.

- (1) There is established a Defence Industry Corporation of Nigeria Technology, Research and Development Institute ("the Institute"),
- (2) The Institute shall be under the general control and management of the Corporation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 27 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 28: Objectives of the Institute.

The objectives of the Institute are to —

- (a) create a solid scientific and research foundation for Nigeria's defence industry;
- (b) leverage basic research from military research institutes for applied research that leads to commercialisation; and
- (c) develop military technology and capacity building through research (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 28 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 29: Functions of the Institute.

The functions of the Institute include —

- (a) provision of courses of instruction, training and research in the production of arms, ammunition and other military equipment;
- (b) engagement in the training of skilled engineers, technologists and technicians to a minimum of National Diploma level required for the production of arms, ammunition and other military equipment; and
- (c) such other functions as may be necessary for carrying out the objectives of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 30: Appointment of Director of the Institute.

- (1) There shall be for the Institute, a Director who shall be appointed by the Board.
- (2) The Director shall —
 - (a) possess a minimum of a Doctorate Degree in a relevant discipline with demonstrable research experience.
 - (b) be responsible for the day to day administration and general management of the Institute; and
 - (c) be appointed on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 31: Staff of the Institute.

The Board may appoint for the Institute such technical and non-technical staff as may be necessary for carrying out the functions of the institute (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 32: Fund of the Institute.

The Institute shall maintain a fund for the running of the Institute, which shall consist of —

- (a) such monies allocated to the Institute through the Corporation budget;
- (b) monies from the services rendered by the Institute;
- (c) foreign aid, grants and assistance from government or non-governmental donor agencies; and
- (d) all other monies which may from time to time accrue to the Institute (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VII — APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS TO THE CORPORATIONS**Clause 33: Customs, Excise Tariff, etc. (Consolidation) Act.**

The Corporation shall be exempted from the payment of import and excise duty on military hardware, uniforms, service accoutrements, explosives, arms and ammunitions imported for use by members of the armed forces and other security agencies (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 34: Application of Companies Income Tax Act.

The Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries and affiliates shall be exempted from the provisions of any and all taxes, fees, imports or similar fiscal laws or Regulation of the federal, state, local government of Nigeria, including the Companies Income Tax Act, the Capital Gains Tax Act, the Stamp Duties Act, the Value Added Tax Act (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 35: Restricted application of Firearms Act.

- (1) Nothing in the Firearms Act shall be construed to preclude the corporation from —
 - (a) importation of any firearm or ammunition as defined in the Firearms Act; or
 - (b) manufacture, assembly, repair, or disposal of any such firearm or ammunition in the ordnance factories.
- (2) An ordnance factory under the control of the Corporation shall, for the purposes of the Firearms Act, be deemed to have been recognized as a public armoury and the firearms and ammunition therein may be held by the Corporation for such period as it thinks fit (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 36: Application of Factories Act.

For the purposes of the application of the Factories Act —

- (a) an ordnance factory may not require registration; and
- (b) powers of entry and inspection shall be exercisable during the hours of day and at such time or times as may be convenient to the Director-General, after taking into consideration the nature of the work, or the part of the ordnance factories to be inspected (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VIII — OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Clause 37: Taking part in any strike.

- (1) A person employed by the Corporation in any capacity, and whether or not a member of a trade union, shall not engage or take part in any form of strike.
- (2) A person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦200,000.00 or by imprisonment for a term not less than six months or both (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 38: Non-Compliance with Conflict of Interest Requirement.

An employee or member of the Board of the Corporation who fails to make disclosure pursuant to this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦500,000.00 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or both (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 38 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 39: Penalties for Non-Compliance with Regulations.

A person who contravenes the provisions of any regulations made pursuant to this Bill commits an offence and is liable on conviction to the penalty prescribed under the regulations (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 39 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IX — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION**Clause 40: Directives of the Minister.**

- (1) The Minister may give directives of a general or special nature to the corporation in relation to the functions and powers of the Corporation under this Bill, and it shall be the duty of the Corporation to give effect to such directives.
- (2) Any policy guidelines initiated by the Corporation shall not be implemented without the prior approval of the Minister, and the Minister may, where necessary, consult with the Corporation before approving a policy guideline (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 40 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 41: Intellectual Property Protection.

The Corporation shall where necessary, apply for and obtain intellectual property protection for all of its works, inventions and property from relevant government agency or body (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 41 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 42: Defence Industry Association.

The corporation shall collaborate with the Defence Industry Association of Nigeria and any other relevant association recognized by the Minister for the purpose of —

- (a) supporting and improving local production of weapons and other equipment for the Nigeria Armed Forces in line with the objectives of the Nigeria's military industrial complex; and
- (b) reducing reliance on foreign suppliers, and developing local capabilities and standardisation in the defence industry (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 42 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 43: Conflict of interest.

- (1) Members of the Board, Director-General and other staff of the Corporation shall take oaths in relation to secrecy and other matters as the Minister may from time to time direct.
- (2) An employee of the Corporation or a member of the Board shall —
 - (a) disclose to the Board any direct or indirect interest that such employee or Board member, or his or her spouse, partner or family member may have in any matter relating to the acquisition or procurement activities of the Corporation; and

- (b) withdraw from participation in the activity in question unless the Board decides that the interest is trivial or irrelevant.
- (3) An employee of the Corporation or a member of the Board who has any interest in any company or concern with which the Corporation proposes to enter any contract or have any interest in such contract, shall disclose fact and nature of such interest to the Corporation, and such disclosures shall be recorded.
- (4) A member having the interest referred to in subsection (3) of this section shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Corporation relating to such contract (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 43 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 44: Limitation of suits against the Corporation.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the provision of the Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against any member, officer, or employee of the Corporation.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law or enactment, no suit against the Director General, a member of the Board, or any other officer or employee of the Corporation for any act done in pursuance or execution of this Bill or any other law, enactment, or of any public duty or authority or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Bill or any other law or enactment, duty of authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless it is commenced —
 - (a) within three months next after the act, neglect or default complained of; or
 - (b) in the case of continuation of damage or injury, within six months next after the ceasing thereof.
- (3) A suit shall not be commenced against the Director General, a member of the Board or any other officer or employee of the Corporation before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of the intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Corporation by the intending plaintiff or his agent.
- (4) The notice referred to in sub section (3) of this section shall clearly state the —
 - (a) cause of action;
 - (b) particulars of claim;
 - (c) name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and
 - (d) relief which he claims.
- (5) A notice, summons or other document required or authorized to be served on the Corporation under the provision of this Bill or any other law or enactment may be served by delivering it to the Director-General or by sending by registered post addressed to the Director-General at the principal office of the Corporation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 44 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 45: Regulations.

- (1) The Minister shall have powers to make regulations for the purposes of giving effect to the provisions of this Bill.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (I) of this section, the Corporation may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations —
 - (a) for regulating the procedure for the activities of the Corporation other than at meetings; or
 - (b) for prescribing danger zones within or outside the ordnance factories (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 45 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 46: Repeal.

The Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act Cap. D4 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 is repealed (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 46 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 47: Savings and transitional provision.

- (1) The power, duties and functions of the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria established under the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act Cap, D4 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 ("the repealed Act") is transferred to the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria established under this Bill.
- (2) Anything made or done or having effect under the repealed Act and having any resulting or continuing effect shall be treated as from the commencement of this Bill, as if it were made or done by the Corporation established under this Bill.
- (3) Any person who before the commencement of this Bill, was appointed or employed by the Corporation established under the repealed Act shall continue in office and be deemed to have been appointed or employed by the Corporation under this Bill.
- (4) All assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the Corporation under the repealed Act shall, by virtue of this Bill, be deemed to be that of the Corporation established under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 47 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 48: Interpretation.

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires —

"armed forces" means the army, navy and air force of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"building" includes fixtures, and any plant, machinery and office furniture supplied or to be supplied under any contract, and whether or not affixed or intended to be affixed to the land (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Corporation" means the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria established under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"explosives" includes grenades, bombs, slurry, jelly, ammonium nitrate, etc. (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Institute" means DICON Technology, Research and Development Institute (DTRI) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"materiel" includes any armament, ammunition and equipment (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Minister" means the Federal Minister charged with responsibility for defence (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"ordnance factories" means public establishment for the manufacture, storage and disposal of ordnance and ancillary stores and materiel intended for or capable of being used by the armed forces, and includes the manufacture of any other thing that may be approved under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"security agencies" include, Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Customs Service, Nigerian Immigration Service, State Security Service, Nigeria Correctional Service, National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, and Defence Intelligence Agency (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Service accoutrements" includes textile and ancillary materiel used by the armed forces and other security agencies (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"special purpose goods" means any objects of armament ammunition mechanical electrical equipment or other military hardware needed by the Armed Forces or Police Forces as well as other security agencies; and (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "special purpose goods" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"subsidiaries" means factories under the Corporation in which the Corporation has core investment (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Question that Clause 48 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 49: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 49 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

[Section 2 (2)]

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE CORPORATION

Proceedings of the Board

1. (1) Subject to this Bill and the provisions of section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Board shall have the power to regulate its proceedings and may make standing orders with respect to the holding of its meetings, and those of its committees, the notice to be given, the keeping of minute of its proceedings, the custody of such minutes and such other matters as the Board may, from time to time, determine.
- (2) Every meeting of the Board shall be presided over by the Chairman and if the Chairman is unable to attend a meeting, the Deputy Chairman shall preside over the meeting and if absent, the most senior member present at the meeting shall preside.
- (3) The quorum at a meeting of the Board shall be not less than two-third of the total number of the Board members present at the meeting.

- (4) The Board shall for the purpose of this Bill, meet not less than two times each year.
- (5) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (4) of this paragraph, the Board shall meet —
 - (a) whenever it is summoned by the Chairman; and
 - (b) if required to do so by notice given to him by not less than one-third of members, within seven days from the date in which the notice is given.
- (6) If for any reason the chairman fails to convene a meeting, the Minister may convene the meeting.
- (7) The first Board meeting of the Corporation shall be convened and held at such place as the Minister may nominate, and any subsequent meeting shall be convened by the chairman
- (8) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, the Board may co-opt such person to the Board for such period as it thinks fit, but a person co-opted pursuant to this paragraph shall not be permitted to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum,
- (9) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, in the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall also have a casting vote.

Committees

2. (1) Subject to its standing orders, the Board may appoint such number of standing or ad hoc committees as it thinks fit on any matter with which the Board is concerned.
- (2) Where standing orders provide for committees other than of members of the Board, or comprising partly members and partly persons co-opted for the purpose, they may advise the Corporation on matters referred to it by the Corporation, but no person shall be co-opted from outside the Corporation in matters relating to defence.
- (3) The quorum of any committee set up by the Board shall be determined by the Board.
- (4) The decision of any committee of the Board shall constitute a recommendation to the Board, and it shall not be effective except approved by the Board.

Miscellaneous

3. (1) The fixing of the Seal of the Agency shall be authenticated by the signature of the Director General and the Legal adviser,
- (2) Any document purporting to be a contract, instrument or document duly signed or sealed on behalf of the Corporation shall be received in evidence and shall unless the contrary is proved, be presumed without further proof to have been signed or sealed,
- (3) The validity of any proceedings of the Board or any of its committees shall not be affected by —
 - (a) any vacancy in the membership of the Board, or committee; or
 - (b) the reason that any person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or committee.

- (4) A member of the Board or of a committee who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or committee shall disclose his or her interest to the Board or committee and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.
- (5) A member of the Board shall not be personally liable for any act or omission done or made in good faith while engaged in the business of the Board (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Note:

This Bill seeks to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the operation, maintenance and control of subsidiaries and ordnance factories for the manufacture, storage and disposal of ordnance and ancillary stores and material and regulate in local production of weapons and other equipment to meet the requirement of the Nigeria armed forces and other security agencies (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act, Cap. D4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Re-enact the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act, 2023 to Operate, Maintain and Control Subsidiaries and Ordnance Factories for the Manufacture, Storage and Disposal of Ordnance and Ancillary Stores and Material; Provide a Comprehensive Framework for the Regulation of the Manufacture, Distribution, Storage and Disposal of Defence Articles, Support Research Activities in Defence Related Fields and for Related Matters (HB. 99) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act Cap D4 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Enact the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act, 2023 to Operate, Maintain and Control Subsidiaries and Ordnance Factories for the Manufacture, Storage and Disposal of Ordnance and Ancillary Stores and Material; provide a Comprehensive Framework for the Regulation of the Manufacture, Distribution, Storage and Disposal of Defence Articles, Support Research activities in Defence Related Fields and for Related Matters (HB.99) and approved Clauses 1- 49, the Schedule, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Screening of Nominees for Appointment as Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Screening of Nominees for Appointment as Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria” (*Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

“That Major-General Christopher Gwabin Musa, be CONFIRMED as the CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; having successfully undergone the screening process of the Committee” (*Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

“That Major-General Taoreed Abiodun Lagbaja, be CONFIRMED as the CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; having successfully undergone the screening process of the Committee” (*Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

“That Rear Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla, be CONFIRMED as the CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; having successfully undergone the screening process of the Committee” (*Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

“That Air Vice Marshal Hassan Bala Abubakar, be CONFIRMED as the CHIEF OF AIR STAFF of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; having successfully undergone the screening process of the Committee” (*Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Screening of Nominees for Appointment as Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and approved Recommendations (i) - (iv) of the Report.

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

31. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 20 July, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.27 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker