



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 2 October, 2024

1. The House met at 11.11 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 26 September, 2024.

*The Second Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*

4. **Announcement**

(i) **Defection:**

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Chris Nkwonta (*Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*) announcing his defection from Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to All Progressives Congress (APC).

(ii) **Appointment of Committee Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen:**

Mr Speaker announced the following Committee Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen:

- |     |                               |   |                                                                  |
|-----|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) | Hon. Adelegbe Oluwatimehin    | — | Chairman, Committee on Science Research Institutions.            |
|     | Hon. Shehu Nasiru             | — | Deputy Chairman, Committee on Science Research Institutions.     |
| (2) | Hon. Kabiru Ahmadu Mai Palace | — | Chairman, Committee on Sports.                                   |
| (3) | Hon. Abubakar Sulaiman Gumi   | — | Chairman, Committee on North West Development Commission.        |
|     | Hon. Yakubu Sani Alhaji       | — | Deputy Chairman, Committee on North West Development Commission. |

- |      |                             |   |                                                                         |
|------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (4)  | Hon. Chris Nkwonta          | — | <i>Chairman, Committee on South East Development Commission.</i>        |
|      | Hon. Shehu Nasiru           | — | <i>Deputy Chairman, Committee on South East Development Commission.</i> |
| (5)  | Hon. Raji Tasir Olawale     | — | <i>Chairman, Committee on Livestock Development.</i>                    |
|      | Hon. Kabiru Yusuf Alhaji    | — | <i>Deputy Chairman, Committee on Livestock Development.</i>             |
| (6)  | Hon. Muhammed Mukhtar       | — | <i>Chairman, Committee on Tourism.</i>                                  |
|      | Hon. Daniel Asama Ago       | — | <i>Deputy Chairman, Committee on Tourism.</i>                           |
| (7)  | Hon. Osi Kama Nkemkanma     | — | <i>Chairman, Committee on Climate Change.</i>                           |
| (8)  | Hon. Zacharias David Idris  | — | <i>Chairman, Committee on Safety Standards and Regulations.</i>         |
| (9)  | Hon. Onwuegbu Befford Anayo | — | <i>Chairman, Committee on Lake Chad.</i>                                |
| (10) | Hon. Ibrahim Mohammed       | — | <i>Chairman, Committee on Culture and Creative Economy.</i>             |
| (11) | Hon. Sani Nazifi            | — | <i>Chairman, Committee on Sustainable Development Goals.</i>            |
| (12) | Hon. Solomon Wombo          | — | <i>Deputy Chairman, Committee on North East Development Commission.</i> |

## 5. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Moses Michael Mufans and family, on alleged refusal by the Nigeria Police Force to comply with Court Order in Suit No: HEU/FHR.58/2023, was presented and laid by Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Aiyamenkhue Edokpalor and 1 other, on behalf of Benin National Congress, on alleged marginalization of the Binis from managerial position by the Management of Benin Owena River Basin Development Authority, was presented and laid by Hon. Esosa Iyawe (*Oredo Federal Constituency*);

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

- (i) ***Vandalization of the High Tension 330 KVA Power Line Supplying Damaturu and Maiduguri:***  
Hon. Lawan Shettima Ali (*Busari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency and Fifteen Others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
  - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
  - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

**Vandalization of the High Tension 330 KVA Power Line Supplying Damaturu and Maiduguri:**

The House:

*Notes* that one of the towers of the High Tension 330 KVA power line, which supplies electricity to Damaturu, Yobe State, and Maiduguri, Borno State was maliciously pulled down by unknown assailants;

*Also notes* that the dastard incident occurred in Kasaisa village, near Damaturu in Yobe State;

*Aware* that this attack, which took place on Sunday, 23 September, 2024, at about 2.00 p.m. was one of the series of attacks on the same facilities at different times;

*Also aware* that the Executive Governor of Yobe State, Hon. Mai Mala Buni, CON, had in the past, been intervening through security measures but to no avail.

*Concerned* this is serious attack on the critical infrastructure that powers two major cities, affecting millions of people and jeopardizing essential services, businesses, and the daily lives of residents, with significant security implications, and possible insurgent activities and socio-economy challenges in the area;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) condemn in the strongest terms the destruction of public infrastructure as an act of sabotage against the well-being of the citizens;
- (ii) call on the relevant security agencies to conduct a thorough investigation into this incident to identify the culprits and bring them to justice;
- (iii) urge the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and other relevant agencies to take immediate steps to repair the damaged tower and restore power supply in Damaturu, Maiduguri, and surrounding areas;
- (iv) also call on the relevant Security Agencies to provide enhanced security for all key infrastructure, particularly power installations, in order to prevent further occurrences of such sabotage;
- (v) encourage collaboration amongst the local communities in safeguarding public infrastructure by sensitizing them on the importance of these installations and promoting local vigilance in reporting suspicious activities.
- (vi) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure Compliance (*Hon. Lawan Shettima Ali — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency and Fifteen Others*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that one of the towers of the High Tension 330 KVA power line, which supplies electricity to Damaturu, Yobe State, and Maiduguri, Borno State was maliciously pulled down by unknown assailants;

*Also noted* that the dastard incident occurred in Kasaisa village, near Damaturu in Yobe State;

*Aware* that this attack, which took place on Sunday, 23 September, 2024, at about 2.00 p.m. was one of the series of attacks on the same facilities at different times;

*Also aware* that the Executive Governor of Yobe State, Hon. Mai Mala Buni, CON, had in the past, been intervening through security measures but to no avail.

*Concerned* this is serious attack on the critical infrastructure that powers two major cities, affecting millions of people and jeopardizing essential services, businesses, and the daily lives of residents, with significant security implications, and possible insurgent activities and socio-economy challenges in the area;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) condemn in the strongest terms the destruction of public infrastructure as an act of sabotage against the well-being of the citizens;
  - (ii) call on the relevant security agencies to conduct a thorough investigation into this incident to identify the culprits and bring them to justice;
  - (iii) urge the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and other relevant agencies to take immediate steps to repair the damaged tower and restore power supply in Damaturu, Maiduguri, and surrounding areas;
  - (iv) also call on the relevant Security Agencies to provide enhanced security for all key infrastructure, particularly power installations, in order to prevent further occurrences of such sabotage;
  - (v) encourage collaboration amongst the local communities in safeguarding public infrastructure by sensitizing them on the importance of these installations and promoting local vigilance in reporting suspicious activities.
  - (vi) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure Compliance (**HR. 72/10/2024**).
- (ii) ***Devastating Flooding and Infrastructural Damage in Kebbe and Tambuwal Local Government Areas of Sokoto State:***  
Hon. Abdussamad Dasuki (*Kebbe/Tambuwal Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
  - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

**Devastating Flooding and Infrastructural Damage in Kebbe and Tambuwal Local Government Areas of Sokoto State:**

The House:

*Notes* that in recent weeks, severe flooding has ravaged Kebbe/Tambuwal Federal Constituency, particularly impacting the communities of Girkau, Margai, Sayyina, Dogondaji, Rara, Fakku, Nasagudu, and Kuchi displacing thousands of residents, washing away hectares of farmlands, and critical infrastructure, including the bridge on the JegaKontagora Highway between Kuchi and Rara communities, cutting off a key access route connecting Sokoto - Kebbi and Niger States; thereby compounding economic damage;

*Concerned* that the flooding has not only displaced families and destroyed farmland, but it has also severely impacted transportation and connectivity due to the destruction of the bridge on the Jega-Kontagora Highway between Kuchi and Rara communities forcing commuters to travel an additional 80 to 100 kilometers through Kamba to rejoin the highway, drastically increasing travel times and cutting off direct access to essential services, markets, and neighboring States, which has further isolated the affected communities, hampering emergency response efforts and deepening the economic hardship faced by residents;

*Observes* that despite local efforts to provide relief, the extent of the damage requires national intervention as thousands of displaced families are living in makeshift shelters, with limited access to food, water, and medical care; immediate deployment of relief materials, including food, and medical supplies, is essential to alleviate their suffering, including urgent infrastructural repairs, particularly the rebuilding of the bridge, and restoring connectivity and economic activity in the affected areas;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately deploy emergency relief materials, including food, medical supplies, and other necessary relief materials, to the affected communities of Kebbe, Dogondaji, Kaura, Gefe, Rara, Fakku, Nasagudu, and Kuchi to meet the immediate needs of displaced families.
- (ii) call on the Federal Ministry of Works to collaborate with the Sokoto State Government and immediately commence the rebuilding of the bridge on the Jega-Kontagora Highway between Kuchi and Rara communities, a critical infrastructure link to Niger State;
- (iii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to work with the Sokoto State Government to implement long-term flood mitigation strategies and ensure that preventive measures are put in place to protect vulnerable communities from , future flooding incidents;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to oversee the delivery and coordination of relief efforts, ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable individuals promptly (*Hon. Abdussamad Dasuki — Kebbe/Tambuwal Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that in recent weeks, severe flooding has ravaged Kebbe/Tambuwal Federal Constituency, particularly impacting the communities of Girkau, Margai, Sayyina, Dogondaji, Rara, Fakku, Nasagudu, and Kuchi displacing thousands of residents, washing away hectares of farmlands, and critical infrastructure, including the bridge on the Jega-Kontagora Highway between Kuchi and Rara communities, cutting off a key access route connecting Sokoto - Kebbi and Niger States; thereby compounding economic damage;

*Concerned* that the flooding has not only displaced families and destroyed farmland, but it has also severely impacted transportation and connectivity due to the destruction of the bridge on the Jega-Kontagora Highway between Kuchi and Rara communities forcing commuters to travel an additional 80 to 100 kilometers through Kamba to rejoin the highway, drastically increasing travel times and cutting off direct access to essential services, markets, and neighboring States, which has further isolated the affected communities, hampering emergency response efforts and deepening the economic hardship faced by residents;

*Observed* that despite local efforts to provide relief, the extent of the damage requires national intervention as thousands of displaced families are living in makeshift shelters, with limited access to food, water, and medical care; immediate deployment of relief materials, including food, and medical supplies, is essential to alleviate their suffering, including urgent infrastructural repairs, particularly the rebuilding of the bridge, and restoring connectivity and economic activity in the affected areas;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately deploy emergency relief materials, including food, medical supplies, and other necessary relief materials, to the affected communities of Kebbe, Dogondaji, Kaura, Gefe, Rara, Fakku, Nasagudu, and Kuchi to meet the immediate needs of displaced families.
  - (ii) call on the Federal Ministry of Works to collaborate with the Sokoto State Government and immediately commence the rebuilding of the bridge on the Jega-Kontagora Highway between Kuchi and Rara communities, a critical infrastructure link to Niger State;
  - (iii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to work with the Sokoto State Government to implement long-term flood mitigation strategies and ensure that preventive measures are put in place to protect vulnerable communities from , future flooding incidents;
  - (iv) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to oversee the delivery and coordination of relief efforts, ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable individuals promptly (**HR. 73/10/2024**).
- (iii) ***Unwarranted Discrimination Against the House of Representatives and Demarcation of Its Chamber as Inferior to the Senate:***  
Hon. Philip Agbese (*Ado/Ogbadigbo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency and 235 Others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
  - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.
- Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.***

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

**Unwarranted Discrimination Against the House of Representatives and Demarcation of Its Chamber as Inferior to the Senate:**

The House:

*Notes* that Section 4 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) established the Senate and House of Representatives as a bicameral legislature with both Chambers as independent, coordinate and equal in legislative powers;

*Also aware* that Section 47 of the Constitution provides for complementary roles in the legislative process;

*Concerned* that there is an ongoing and inappropriate culture of discrimination against the House of Representatives, often portrayed as inferior to the Senate, through language that consistently refers to the Senate as the "upper chamber" and the House of Representatives as a "lower chamber", which terminology misrepresents the legal status of both chambers and diminishes the House's standing;

*Worried* by the growing trend where the President of the Senate is referred to as the "Chairman of the National Assembly", as hierarchical inaccuracy, Constitution aberration, and undermines the authority of the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

*Also concerned* that this discriminatory practice was once again evidenced during the recent conferment of National Honours on the leadership of the National Assembly by Mr President, with the conferment of the title of Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) on the President of the Senate the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Deputy President of the Senate were put on equal pedestal with the award of the CFR thereby subordinating the Speaker to the President of the Senate;

*Notes* that the Chief Justice of Nigeria, is lower in protocol ranking than the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by virtue of the Protocol, law and the award to the CJN of the title of GCON, further subjugated the leadership of the House;

*Recognizes* that section 59 (3) of the Constitution, promotes a balanced and equal bicameral legislature, by clearly providing that Bills passed by one chamber must be concurred with by the other in the same form for them to become law, thus affirming the equal status of both chambers as essential components of the legislative process;

*Emphasizes* that while the Constitution assigns specific responsibilities to the Senate, such as confirming certain Presidential appointments, the House of Representatives over appropriations and the power of the purse, as instrument for checks and balances within the legislative arm and not emphasises on the superiority of one chamber over the other;

*Also recognizes* that the House of Representatives and the Senate are two distinct but equal components of the legislative branch, and their leaders — the Speaker and the President of the Senate — are co-heads in the unique role in advancing legislative functions;

*Also notes* that the enabling acts establishing institutions under the National Assembly, including the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS), the National Assembly Service Commission (NASC), the National Assembly Library, and the National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO), clearly reflect the co-leadership status of the Speaker and the President of the Senate, as clear validation of the equality of both chambers;

*Further notes* that the National Honours Act of 1964 does not explicitly prescribe the conferment of specific honours, such as the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) for the President of the Senate or the Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR) for the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and that these distinctions are rooted in customary practice rather than statutory requirement;

*Acknowledges* the flexibility and discretionary power of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the award of National Honours as exhibited by former President Muhammadu Buhari conferment of the GCON on Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) express displeasure at the ongoing discriminatory practice of referring to the Senate as the "upper chamber" and the House of Representatives as the "lower chamber," as well as portraying the Speaker as subordinate to the President of the Senate. Such references undermine the equal status of both chambers as established by the Constitution and diminish the standing of the House of Representatives in the legislative process;
- (ii) affirm that the House of Representatives is an independent and equal chamber of the National Assembly, and the Speaker is a co-head of the legislative arm of government alongside the President of the Senate (Power of the purse);
- (iii) recognise the Speaker of the House of Representatives as co-chairman of the National Assembly in all respects, and request that all references to the leadership of the National Assembly reflect this equality;
- (iv) also call on all government institutions, officials, and the media to take cognisance of language and titles that suggest a hierarchical structure between the Senate and the House of Representatives or their respective leaders;
- (v) further urge Mr President to uphold the spirit of bicameral equality as enshrined in the Constitution when making decisions and recommendations that concern the leadership of the National Assembly;
- (vi) mandate the relevant House Committees to liaise with the Presidency and propose amendments to the National Honours Act, 1964 to appropriately recognise the Speaker of the House of Representatives as co-head of the National Assembly and, accordingly, confer the national honour of GCON upon the Speaker, ensuring parity in recognition with the President of the Senate. This should be accomplished before the formal decoration by Mr President;
- (vii) direct the Clerk to the National Assembly to ensure that all communications, orders, and publications from the National Assembly henceforth refer to both the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate as co-heads of the National Assembly (*Hon. Philip Agbese — Ado/Ogbadigbo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency and 235 Others*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

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

“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to be chaired by the House Leader, with Minority Leader, and Zonal Caucus Leaders as Members and to liaise with the Presidency and propose amendments to the National Honours Act 1964 to appropriately recognise the Speaker of the House of Representatives as Co-head of the National Assembly and accordingly confer the National Honour of GCON upon



the Speaker, ensuring parity in recognition with the President of the Senate before his formal investiture” (*Hon. Kumo Bello — Akko Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Section 4 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) established the Senate and House of Representatives as a bicameral legislature with both Chambers as independent, coordinate and equal in legislative powers;

*Also aware* that Section 47 of the Constitution provides for complementary roles in the legislative process;

*Concerned* that there is an ongoing and inappropriate culture of discrimination against the House of Representatives, often portrayed as inferior to the Senate, through language that consistently refers to the Senate as the "upper chamber" and the House of Representatives as a "lower chamber", which terminology misrepresents the legal status of both chambers and diminishes the House's standing;

*Worried* by the growing trend where the President of the Senate is referred to as the "Chairman of the National Assembly", as hierarchical inaccuracy, Constitution aberration, and undermines the authority of the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

*Also concerned* that this discriminatory practice was once again evidenced during the recent conferment of National Honours on the leadership of the National Assembly by Mr President, with the conferment of the title of Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) on the President of the Senate the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Deputy President of the Senate were put on equal pedestal with the award of the CFR thereby subordinating the Speaker to the President of the Senate;

*Noted* that the Chief Justice of Nigeria, is lower in protocol ranking than the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by virtue of the Protocol, law and the award to the CJN of the title of GCON, further subjugated the leadership of the House;

*Recognized* that section 59 (3) of the Constitution, promotes a balanced and equal bicameral legislature, by clearly providing that Bills passed by one chamber must be concurred with by the other in the same form for them to become law, thus affirming the equal status of both chambers as essential components of the legislative process;

*Emphasized* that while the Constitution assigns specific responsibilities to the Senate, such as confirming certain Presidential appointments, the House of Representatives over appropriations and the power of the purse, as instrument for checks and balances within the legislative arm and not emphasizes on the superiority of one chamber over the other;

*Also recognized* that the House of Representatives and the Senate are two distinct but equal components of the legislative branch, and their leaders — the Speaker and the President of the Senate — are co-heads in the unique role in advancing legislative functions;

*Also noted* that the enabling acts establishing institutions under the National Assembly, including the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS), the National Assembly Service Commission (NASC), the National Assembly Library, and the National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO), clearly reflect the co-leadership status of the Speaker and the President of the Senate, as clear validation of the equality of both chambers;

*Further noted* that the National Honours Act of 1964 does not explicitly prescribe the conferment of specific honours, such as the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) for the President of the Senate or the Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR) for the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and that these distinctions are rooted in customary practice rather than statutory requirement;

*Acknowledged* the flexibility and discretionary power of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the award of National Honours as exhibited by former President Muhammadu Buhari conferment of the GCON on Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) express displeasure at the ongoing discriminatory practice of referring to the Senate as the "upper chamber" and the House of Representatives as the "lower chamber," as well as portraying the Speaker as subordinate to the President of the Senate. Such references undermine the equal status of both chambers as established by the Constitution and diminish the standing of the House of Representatives in the legislative process;
- (ii) affirm that the House of Representatives is an independent and equal chamber of the National Assembly, and the Speaker is a co-head of the legislative arm of government alongside the President of the Senate (Power of the purse);
- (iii) recognise the Speaker of the House of Representatives as co-chairman of the National Assembly in all respects, and request that all references to the leadership of the National Assembly reflect this equality;
- (iv) also call on all government institutions, officials, and the media to take cognisance of language and titles that suggest a hierarchical structure between the Senate and the House of Representatives or their respective leaders;
- (v) further urge Mr President to uphold the spirit of bicameral equality as enshrined in the Constitution when making decisions and recommendations that concern the leadership of the National Assembly;
- (vi) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to be chaired by the House Leader, with Minority Leader, and Zonal Caucus Leaders as Members and to liaise with the Presidency and propose amendments to the National Honours Act, 1964 to appropriately recognise the Speaker of the House of Representatives as Co-head of the National Assembly and accordingly confer the National Honour of GCON upon the Speaker, ensuring parity in recognition with the President of the Senate before his formal investiture;
- (vii) direct the Clerk to the National Assembly to ensure that all communications, orders, and publications from the National Assembly henceforth refer to both the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate as co-heads of the National Assembly (**HR. 74/10/2024**).

***Motion made and Question proposed***, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (4) to enable it take more than 3 matters of urgent public importance" (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

***Agreed to.***

- (iv) ***Need to Address the Infractions in the Appointments to the Governing Board of the North-West Development Commission (NWDC):***  
Hon. Isa Mohammed Anka (*Anka/Talata Mafara Federal Constituency and 235 Others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

**Need to Address the Infractions in the Appointments to the Governing Board of the North-West Development Commission (NWDC):**

The House:

*Aware* that the Northwest Development Commission (NWDC) Act, 2024 was enacted to provide strategic direction and developmental interventions to address socio-economic challenges in the North West Zone;

*Cognizant* that the Act mandates the establishment of a Governing Board to oversee the Commission's activities, with each State in the Zone represented by one individual and additional representatives appointed from key security agencies and ministries;

*Notes* that His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has forwarded names of appointees to the Senate for confirmation as members of the Commission's Governing Board;

*Concerned* that the appointments made for the Commission's Governing Board do not comply with the provisions of the NWDC Act 2024, particularly in relation to the principle of equitable state representation, and the omission of essential representatives from key security agencies and ministries;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to:
  - (a) review and rectify the appointments of the NWDC Governing Board, ensuring that each state in the Northwest region is represented by only one individual, as stipulated by the Act,
  - (b) also review the appointment of the Managing Director and Reappoint a Managing Director in line with the alphabetical rotation stipulated in the Act, beginning with Jigawa and then Kaduna States, instead of Kano State;
- (ii) urge the Senate to withhold confirmation of the current appointments until the omissions are corrected and all representatives, including those from the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Police Force, and key ministries (Finance, Humanitarian Affairs, Works), are appointed in compliance with the NWDC Act;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on North West Development Commission to investigate the infractions in the current appointments, report within two (2) weeks, and propose additional measures to ensure compliance with the law (*Hon. Mohammed Isa Anka — Anka/Talata Mafara Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Aware* that the Northwest Development Commission (NWDC) Act, 2024 was enacted to provide strategic direction and developmental interventions to address socio-economic challenges in the North West Zone;

*Cognizant* that the Act mandates the establishment of a Governing Board to oversee the Commission's activities, with each State in the Zone represented by one individual and additional representatives appointed from key security agencies and ministries;

*Noted* that His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has forwarded names of appointees to the Senate for confirmation as members of the Commission's Governing Board;

*Concerned* that the appointments made for the Commission's Governing Board do not comply with the provisions of the NWDC Act 2024, particularly in relation to the principle of equitable state representation, and the omission of essential representatives from key security agencies and ministries;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to:
  - (a) review and rectify the appointments of the NWDC Governing Board, ensuring that each state in the Northwest region is represented by only one individual, as stipulated by the Act,
  - (b) also review the appointment of the Managing Director and Reappoint a Managing Director in line with the alphabetical rotation stipulated in the Act, beginning with Jigawa and then Kaduna States, instead of Kano State;
- (ii) urge the Senate to withhold confirmation of the current appointments until the omissions are corrected and all representatives, including those from the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Police Force, and key ministries (Finance, Humanitarian Affairs, Works), are appointed in compliance with the NWDC Act;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on North West Development Commission to investigate the infractions in the current appointments, report within two (2) weeks, and propose additional measures to ensure compliance with the law (**HR. 75/10/2024**).

## 7. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Petroleum Technology Development Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024(HB.1455).
- (2) Off-shore Oil Revenues (Registration of Grants) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1456).
- (3) Land Use Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1749).
- (4) Federal Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Centre, Shere, Plateau State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1687).
- (5) Research Institute of Paper Industry Bill, 2024 (HB.1683).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1693).

- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1694).
- (8) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1695).
- (9) Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1631).
- (10) Veterinary Surgeons of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1633).

## 8. Presentation of Reports

### (i) **Committee on Aids Loans and Debts Management:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on Establishment of Promissory Note Programme as Reimbursement to Nasarawa and Kebbi State for Takeover of Airports by the Federal Government in the sum of Nine Billion, Five Hundred and Forty-Two Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Six Naira, Eleven Kobo (₦9,542,651,786.11) only and Fifteen Billion, One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand, Ninety-Five Naira and Eighty-Eight Kobo (₦15,137,336,095.88) only, based on the claims by the State as approved by the Federal Executive Council” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

### (ii) **Committee on Federal Colleges of Education:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Colleges of Education on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act to Establish Federal College of Education (Special), Dukku, Gombe State and for Related Matters (HB. 1371)” (*Hon. Emmanuel Uguru — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

### (iii) **Committee on Public Assets:**

Report of the Committee on Public Assets on the Investigation of the Sales of Two (2) Bell Helicopters 206 L4 BZB and BZC M206 L4 by the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria, Kaduna State.

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

## 9. Consolidation of Bills

*Motion made and Question propose*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Road Safety Commission Act, 2007 to make provision for Establishment of Road safety Special Armed Squad and make Corps on the rank of Deputy Corp Marshal enjoy benefits attached to that grade including Retirement grade and for Related Matters (HB. 1401); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Road Safety Commission Act, 2007 to empower the Federal Road Safety Commission with the responsibility for Road Traffic Administration and Safety Management, Preventing and Minimizing Road Traffic crashes on Public Roads, Supervision of users of such Public Roads, Regulation of Traffic thereon and clearing of obstruction on any part of the Public Roads and for Educating Drivers, Motorist and other Members of the Public generally on the proper use of Public Roads and Matters Related to Safety on the Public Roads and for Related Matters (HB.1604) be now consolidated” (*Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka Ayokunle — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**10. A Bill for an Act to Establish Ibile Entrepreneur University, Lagos and make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 639) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Ibile Entrepreneur University, Lagos and make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 639) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Babajimi Benson Adegoke — Ikorodu Federal Constituency and One other*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on University Education.*

**11. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the National Institute for Technical and Vocational Education, Wamba, Nasarawa State and for Related Matters (HB.118) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the National Institute for Technical and Vocational Education, Wamba, Nasarawa State and for Related Matters (HB.118) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Jeremiah Umaru — Akwanga/Nassarawa/Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education.*

**12. Need to Dredge Major Dams and Rivers to Avert Floods Across the Federation**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that dredging of major dams and rivers in the country is essential to reduce the incidence of floods ravaging farmers' crops;

*Also notes* that the government's negligence in supporting farmers' efforts to address flooding has hindered the implementation of an adequate action plan, which would enhance drainage system mechanisms to control flooding in the country;

*Worried* that the negligence has led to inadequate drainage systems, insufficient flood control measures, a lack of support for farmers to adapt to climate change, inadequate compensation for farmers' losses, and inefficient water resource management;

*Aware* that developed countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and South Africa have made flood control through proper drainage sustainability a key objective of their administration in order to safeguard the environment, improve food security, and ensure food sustainability;

*Recognises* that proper dredging of major dams and rivers will encourage irrigation farming, which

will in turn yield abundant food production for domestic consumption and exportation, consequently contribute to economic development, however, annual flooding is destroying farmers' efforts, causing losses worth billions of dollars and high risk of excessive flooding due to government inaction;

*Worried* that 80% of Nigerian farmers have suffered significant crop losses, leading to debt and exit from the farming business, most farmers who obtained loan facilities from financial institutions find it difficult to pay back due to flood-related losses;

*Also aware* of the statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics which revealed that in 2018, floods destroyed crops worth 756 billion Naira, 2019, destroyed crops worth 890 billion Naira; and in 2020, destroyed over 1.2 trillion Naira.

*Further aware* that the statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that in 2018 and 2019 flood destroyed crops worth over seven hundred and fifty six billion naira and 1 trillion, respectively, thus, affecting over 80% of farmers;

*Cognizant* that government's intervention in dam and river drainage could have injected lost resources into the economy for economic growth and development in the country;

*Also cognizant* that dredging of major dams and rivers in Nigeria will prevent flood disasters, protect lives and properties, and promote sustainable water resource management, aimed to enhance water storage capacity and circulation;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Water Resources and Environment to direct the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency to evaluate the framework drainage control system to actualize the desired result;
- (ii) urge the government through the Federal Ministries of Water Resources and Sanitation to commence drainage of the country's major dams and rivers to prevent excessive floods ravaging lives and properties of the citizens; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, Environment, and Agricultural Production and Services to collaborate with the Hon. Ministers of Water Resources and Agriculture and Food Security to propose solutions to this menace and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Mohammed Dan Abba Shehu — Zaki Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In Prayer (iii), immediately after the words "Committees on", *insert* the words "Appropriations, National Planning" (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word "commence", *leave out* the word "drainage" and *insert* the words "investigation on the siltation" (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that dredging of major dams and rivers in the country is essential to reduce the incidence of floods ravaging farmers' crops;

*Also noted* that the government's negligence in supporting farmers' efforts to address flooding has hindered the implementation of an adequate action plan, which would enhance drainage system mechanisms to control flooding in the country;

*Worried* that the negligence has led to inadequate drainage systems, insufficient flood control measures, a lack of support for farmers to adapt to climate change, inadequate compensation for farmers' losses, and inefficient water resource management;

*Aware* that developed countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and South Africa have made flood control through proper drainage sustainability a key objective of their administration in order to safeguard the environment, improve food security, and ensure food sustainability;

*Recognised* that proper dredging of major dams and rivers will encourage irrigation farming, which will in turn yield abundant food production for domestic consumption and exportation, consequently contribute to economic development, however, annual flooding is destroying farmers' efforts, causing losses worth billions of dollars and high risk of excessive flooding due to government inaction;

*Worried* that 80% of Nigerian farmers have suffered significant crop losses, leading to debt and exit from the farming business, most farmers who obtained loan facilities from financial institutions find it difficult to pay back due to flood-related losses;

*Also aware* of the statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics which revealed that in 2018, floods destroyed crops worth 756 billion Naira, 2019, destroyed crops worth 890 billion Naira; and in 2020, destroyed over 1.2 trillion Naira.

*Further aware* that the statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that in 2018 and 2019 flood destroyed crops worth over seven hundred and fifty six billion naira and 1 trillion, respectively, thus, affecting over 80% of farmers;

*Cognizant* that government's intervention in dam and river drainage could have injected lost resources into the economy for economic growth and development in the country;

*Also cognizant* that dredging of major dams and rivers in Nigeria will prevent flood disasters, protect lives and properties, and promote sustainable water resource management, aimed to enhance water storage capacity and circulation;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Water Resources and Environment to direct the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency to evaluate the framework drainage control system to actualize the desired result;
- (ii) urge the government through the Federal Ministries of Water Resources and Sanitation to commence investigation on the siltation of the country's major dams and rivers to prevent excessive floods ravaging lives and properties of the citizens; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Appropriations, National Planning, Water Resources, Environment, and Agricultural Production and Services to collaborate with the Hon. Ministers of Water Resources, and Agriculture and Food Security to propose solutions to this menace and report within four (4) weeks **(HR. 75/10/2024)**.



**13. Need to Rehabilitate the Naze-Obibiezena and Emeabiam Roads to Boost Agriculture in Owerri Federal Constituency**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam roads are major roads leading to Etche Rivers State connecting the host community of the Anambra-Imo River Basin Development Authority and other surrounding communities in Owerri Federal Constituency;

*Also notes* that the Naze, Obibiezena and Emeabiam roads have over 250 oil-producing wells which have been in a state of dilapidation and comatose for decades without rehabilitation by successive governments;

*Aware* that the past administration had attempted to rehabilitate the Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam roads, which host the Anambra-Imo River Basin Development Authority, a Federal Government Agency known for the management of water resources for agriculture and other uses in the region;

*Also aware* that despite efforts to rehabilitate the roads by previous administrations, the Naze, Obibiezena Emeabiam roads has degenerated leaving residents, farmers, and other road users to face difficulties daily;

*Concerned* that the Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam Roads is a major link to communities such as Egbu, Umuekwune, Okolochi, and Eziobodo yet in a terrible state for decades, thwarting economic growth in the communities;

*Also concerned* that Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam Roads, being the link leading to communities, stretches over 50km to Etche Rivers State and can serve as a bypass from Owerri to Port Harcourt, avoiding heavy traffic from the Owerri-Port Harcourt expressway, while people coming from Okigwe Aba and Umuahia can also find the road useful and faster as people coming from Imo State Airport have to pass through the heavy traffic of the Owerri-Port Harcourt expressway;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works through its road intervention project to include the Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam Road as one of the roads that needs the Federal Government intervention;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to visit the Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam Roads to further ascertain the extent of damage on the roads and report within four (4) weeks; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Tochukwu Chinedu Okere — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out Prayer (ii) (Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency).*

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam roads are major roads leading to Etche Rivers State connecting the host community of the Anambra-Imo River Basin Development Authority and other surrounding communities in Owerri Federal Constituency;

*Also noted* that the Naze, Obibiezena and Emeabiam roads have over 250 oil-producing wells which have been in a state of dilapidation and comatose for decades without rehabilitation by successive governments;

*Aware* that the past administration had attempted to rehabilitate the Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam roads, which host the Anambra-Imo River Basin Development Authority, a Federal Government Agency known for the management of water resources for agriculture and other uses in the region;

*Also aware* that despite efforts to rehabilitate the roads by previous administrations, the Naze, Obibiezena Emeabiam roads has degenerated leaving residents, farmers, and other road users to face difficulties daily;

*Concerned* that the Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam Roads is a major link to communities such as Egbu, Umuekwune, Okolochi, and Eziobodo yet in a terrible state for decades, thwarting economic growth in the communities;

*Also concerned* that Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam Roads, being the link leading to communities, stretches over 50km to Etche Rivers State and can serve as a bypass from Owerri to Port Harcourt, avoiding heavy traffic from the Owerri-Port Harcourt expressway, while people coming from Okigwe Aba and Umuahia can also find the road useful and faster as people coming from Imo State Airport have to pass through the heavy traffic of the Owerri-Port Harcourt expressway;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works through its road intervention project to include the Naze, Obibiezena, and Emeabiam Road as one of the roads that needs the Federal Government intervention;
- (ii) also mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance (**HR. 76/10/2024**).

#### **14. Consideration of Reports**

- (i) ***Committee on Aids Loans and Debts Management:***  
Report of the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on Establishment of Promissory Note Programme as Reimbursement to Nasarawa and Kebbi State for Takeover of Airports by the Federal Government in the sum of Nine Billion, Five Hundred and Forty-Two Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Six Naira, Eleven Kobo (₦9,542,651,786.11) only and Fifteen Billion, One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand, Ninety-Five Naira and Eighty-Eight Kobo (₦15,137,336,095.88) only, based on the claims by the State as approved by the Federal Executive Council.

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

- (ii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration, Ondo City, Ondo State and for Related Matters (SB.40) (Committee of the Whole):***  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration, Ondo City, Ondo State and for Related Matters (SB.40)” (*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 ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION, ONDO CITY,  
ONDO STATE AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (SB.40)

*Consideration deferred.*

*Chairman to report progress.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration, Ondo City, Ondo State and for Related Matters (SB.40).

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

(iii) *A Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Health Care Management of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1260) (Committee of the Whole):*

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Health Care Management of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1260)” (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 ESTABLISH CHARTERED  
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT OF  
NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.1260)

*Consideration deferred.*

*Chairman to report progress.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Health Care Management of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1260).

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

(iv) *A Bill for an Act to Establish Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians*

*Regulatory Council of Nigeria to be vested with responsibility of determining Standards of knowledge and Skills to be attained by persons seeking to become Pharmaceutical Technologist and Pharmacy Technicians and for Related Matters (HB. 345) (Committee of the Whole):*

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council of Nigeria to be vested with responsibility of determining Standards of knowledge and Skills to be attained by persons seeking to become Pharmaceutical Technologist and Pharmacy Technicians and for Related Matters (HB. 345)” (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 ESTABLISH PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGISTS  
AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS REGULATORY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA TO BE  
VESTED WITH RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING STANDARDS OF KNOWLEDGE  
AND SKILLS TO BE ATTAINED BY PERSONS SEEKING TO BECOME PHARMACEUTICAL  
TECHNOLOGIST AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Consideration deferred.*

*Chairman to report progress.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council of Nigeria to be vested with responsibility of determining Standards of knowledge and Skills to be attained by persons seeking to become Pharmaceutical Technologist and Pharmacy Technicians and for Related Matters (HB. 345).

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

**15. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 3 October, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 2.13 p.m.*

**Abbas Tajudeen**  
*Speaker*