



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 27 November, 2024

1. The House met at 11.07 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 26 November, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

Ad-hoc Committee on the Screening of the Confirmation of the Acting Chief of Army Staff:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:

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|------|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| (1) | Hon. Babajimi Benson Adegoke | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Aminu Balele Kurfi | — | <i>Co-Chairman</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Mike Etaba | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Miriam Onuoha | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Kwamoti Bitrus Laori | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Mukhtar T. Shagaya | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Usman M. Banye | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Ahmed Usman Jaha | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Olawande Folarin George | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Osi Kama Nkenkanma | — | <i>Member</i> |

5. Petitions

- (i) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*):
- (a) Onabville Attorneys (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Moses Endurance and 3 others, on alleged breach of their Rights and Privileges due to them on the OML-58 Ubeta Main Field Development Project, Rivers State, by the Management of Total Energies EP Nigeria Limited;
 - (b) Bonabros Company Nigeria, on behalf of Oyibo Hilter Major and 4 others, on alleged inhumane treatment meted out to travellers on a passenger speed boat by Security Operatives of Shell Petroleum Development Company Limited;
- (ii) A petition from Ekpeye & OGBA NLNG Host Community Landlords, on alleged marginalisation in the ongoing NLNG Train 7 project in Bonny by the Nigerian Liquified Natural Gas (NLNG), was presented and laid by Hon. Victor Obuzor (*Ahoada West/Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Alabi & Sule Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Sanwei family in Ojobo community, Delta State, on the refusal to compensate them for the environmental damage caused by the operations of Shell Petroleum Development Company Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Mathew Nwogu (*Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Ndarani SAN & Co., on behalf of aggrieved Imo State contractors, on alleged non-payment of the contract sum of N15, 989,213,218:00. (Fifteen Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty Nine Million Two Hundred and Thirteen Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighteen Naira) by the Accountant-General of Imo State, was presented and laid by Hon. Mudashiru Lukman Alami (*Ayedire/Iwo/Olaoluwa Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from Olomu A. Hawkins, on behalf of Mr Edwin Idowu Oluka, on the termination of his appointment by Pilar Oil Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Nwobasi Joseph (*Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Metering Crisis and Associated Challenges in the Electricity Distribution Sector:***
Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani 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.

Metering Crisis and Associated Challenges in the Electricity Distribution Sector:

The House:

Notes with concern the ongoing metering crisis in the country, particularly the failure of electricity distribution companies (DisCos) to replace obsolete meters as mandated by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC). This has led to the decommissioning of over one million meters, thereby exacerbating the challenges faced by consumers;

Also notes that many Nigerians who applied for meter upgrades months ago have not had their meters replaced, leaving them to resort to costly alternatives, such as paying over ₦200,000 for new meters or facing exorbitant charges for direct connections, which could cost upwards of ₦500,000 for a few days;

Further notes that the burden of maintaining electricity infrastructure, such as transformers, continues to fall on consumers who are often required to contribute funds for repairs, replacement of stolen cables, and other maintenance costs, even though such responsibilities should lie with the electricity distribution companies;

Concerned that the infrastructure used by the DisCos, including transformers, remains outdated, with little investment in new equipment to ease load shedding and improve service delivery. Many new transformers installed in communities are often privately procured through community contributions;

Recognizes that private sector monopolies in the electricity sector have not alleviated the inefficiencies that plagued the old government monopoly, raising questions about the effectiveness of the privatization process in ensuring affordable and reliable electricity for all Nigerians;

Recalls that NERC, in a recent directive, mandated electricity distribution companies to replace obsolete meters at no cost to consumers to ease the challenges in the metering system and improve electricity supply transparency;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to ensure strict enforcement of its directive to electricity distribution companies to replace obsolete meters at no cost to consumers and within a specified timeframe;
- (ii) call on the Federal Ministry of Power to prioritise funding and incentives for upgrading electricity infrastructure, especially transformers, to reduce load shedding and improve service delivery across the country;
- (iii) further urge the electricity distribution companies to create an accessible and transparent system for meter upgrades and replacements, with penalties for non-compliance to prevent the exploitation of consumers;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the failure of electricity distribution

companies to replace obsolete meters and improve infrastructure, including the persistent reliance on consumer contributions for maintenance and equipment replacement (*Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the ongoing metering crisis in the country, particularly the failure of electricity distribution companies (DisCos) to replace obsolete meters as mandated by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC). This has led to the decommissioning of over one million meters, thereby exacerbating the challenges faced by consumers;

Also noted that many Nigerians who applied for meter upgrades months ago have not had their meters replaced, leaving them to resort to costly alternatives, such as paying over ₦200,000 for new meters or facing exorbitant charges for direct connections, which could cost upwards of ₦500,000 for a few days;

Further noted that the burden of maintaining electricity infrastructure, such as transformers, continues to fall on consumers who are often required to contribute funds for repairs, replacement of stolen cables, and other maintenance costs, even though such responsibilities should lie with the electricity distribution companies;

Concerned that the infrastructure used by the DisCos, including transformers, remains outdated, with little investment in new equipment to ease load shedding and improve service delivery. Many new transformers installed in communities are often privately procured through community contributions;

Recognized that private sector monopolies in the electricity sector have not alleviated the inefficiencies that plagued the old government monopoly, raising questions about the effectiveness of the privatization process in ensuring affordable and reliable electricity for all Nigerians;

Recalled that NERC, in a recent directive, mandated electricity distribution companies to replace obsolete meters at no cost to consumers to ease the challenges in the metering system and improve electricity supply transparency;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to ensure strict enforcement of its directive to electricity distribution companies to replace obsolete meters at no cost to consumers and within a specified timeframe;
- (ii) call on the Federal Ministry of Power to prioritise funding and incentives for upgrading electricity infrastructure, especially transformers, to reduce load shedding and improve service delivery across the country;

- (iii) further urge the electricity distribution companies to create an accessible and transparent system for meter upgrades and replacements, with penalties for non-compliance to prevent the exploitation of consumers;
 - (iv) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the failure of electricity distribution companies to replace obsolete meters and improve infrastructure, including the persistent reliance on consumer contributions for maintenance and equipment replacement (**HR. 190/11/2024**).
- (ii) ***Payment of Compensation to the Victims of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Epidemic in Lagos and Other States of the Federation:***
Hon. Ganiyu Adele Ayuba (*Alimosho 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.

Payment of Compensation to the Victims of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Epidemic in Lagos and Other States of the Federation:

The House:

Notes that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a viral infection that can cause severe illness and high mortality in birds and other animals;

Also notes that in October 2022, an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HP AI) was reported at the Agricultural Youth Empowerment Scheme (AGRIC YES) poultry farm settlement in Epe, Lagos State and in some other States of the federation;

Further notes that in response to this outbreak, the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture alerted the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. which in turn conducted an investigation to ascertain the mortality rate and the number of farmers and farms affected for the purpose of compensation;

Concerned that over two years after, the due compensation promised by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture is yet to materialize, and this has led to loss of businesses, means of livelihood and income to the affected farmers, resulting to depression in some cases;

Believes that unless this House intervene, the due compensation and the promised relief to the affected farmers nationwide may not come to fruition;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Livestock Development to:

- (a) investigate the non-payment of compensation due to the farmers affected by HP AI in 2022, in Lagos and other States of the federation;
- (b) liaise with the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development on the preventive measures put in place to prevent future outbreak and report within eight (8) weeks (*Hon. Ganiyu Adele Ayuba — Alimosho Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a viral infection that can cause severe illness and high mortality in birds and other animals;

Also noted that in October 2022, an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HP AI) was reported at the Agricultural Youth Empowerment Scheme (AGRIC YES) poultry farm settlement in Epe, Lagos State and in some other States of the federation;

Further noted that in response to this outbreak, the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture alerted the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. which in turn conducted an investigation to ascertain the mortality rate and the number of farmers and farms affected for the purpose of compensation;

Concerned that over two years after, the due compensation promised by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture is yet to materialize, and this has led to loss of businesses, means of livelihood and income to the affected farmers, resulting to depression in some cases;

Believed that unless this House intervene, the due compensation and the promised relief to the affected farmers nationwide may not come to fruition;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Livestock Development to:

- (a) investigate the non-payment of compensation due to the farmers affected by HP AI in 2022, in Lagos and other States of the federation;
- (b) liaise with the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development on the preventive measures put in place to prevent future outbreak and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 191/11/2024**).

(iii) ***Presidential CNG Initiative to Avert Further Carnage Leading to Loss of Lives Due to the Production of Locally Fabricated CNG Tanks by Artisans:***

Hon. Fuad Kayode Laguda (*Surulere I 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.

Presidential CNG Initiative to Avert Further Carnage Leading to Loss of Lives Due to the Production of Locally Fabricated CNG Tanks by Artisans:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government's Presidential CNG Initiative seeks to promote the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as a cleaner, more affordable alternative to petrol and diesel in vehicles, thereby reducing dependence on imported fuel, lowering emissions, and making transportation more cost-effective for Nigerians;

Also notes that the Presidential CNG initiative is a component of the Palliative intervention of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration intervention program to cushion the resultant hardship effects of the fuel subsidy removal;

Further notes that CNG has proven to be a sustainable and viable alternative fuel for transportation in many countries worldwide, but its safe use hinges on proper manufacturing, installation, and inspection of the CNG tanks and systems used in vehicles;

Worried that the recent tragic incident in Edo State, where an explosion of a locally fabricated CNG cylinder resulted in the loss of lives, numerous injuries, and property damage, has highlighted the critical need to address the safety and integrity of CNG tanks produced and used in Nigeria;

Also worried that the lack of regulatory standards and legislation governing the local fabrication, installation, and inspection of CNG cylinders is causing a surge in the production of substandard tanks by unqualified artisans, leading to avoidable explosions and loss of lives;

Further worried that many CNG conversion workshops and artisans are operating without proper technical certification or oversight, creating unsafe conditions that endanger the lives of vehicle owners and passengers;

Concerned that without immediate legislative intervention to regulate the production, testing and certification of CNG tanks and installation processes more Nigerians will continue to face the risk of similar explosions, injuries, and fatalities;

Also concerned that the use of substandard materials, faulty installations and inadequate testing of CNG cylinders before their deployment in vehicles could undermine the success of the Presidential CNG Initiative and lead to widespread public mistrust in CNG technology;

Further concerned that the absence of mandatory integrity checks for CNG tanks and the vehicles they are mounted on further compounds the risks associated with the use of compressed natural gas for transportation;

Acknowledges the significant benefits that could be derived from the widespread adoption of CNG technology, including reduced transportation costs, improved air quality, and a boost to Nigeria's domestic gas industry;

Commends the Executive Arm of Government for its ongoing efforts under the Presidential CNG Initiative, while emphasizing the need to prioritize safety and compliance to maximize the benefits of CNG adoption for Nigerians;

Recognizes that there is an urgent need to address the safety concerns associated with CNG use in Nigeria to prevent further carnage, safeguard lives and protect public confidence in CNG as a viable alternative fuel;

Resolves to:

- (i) propose and enact legislation that will regulate the production, installation and use of CNG tanks and systems in vehicles, ensuring that such processes meet internationally accepted safety standards and prevent the fabrication of substandard CNG tanks by unqualified individuals;
- (ii) urge the relevant departments of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) to collaborate on enforcing strict certification standards for the production and installation of CNG tanks and ensure that only qualified and accredited workshops are authorized to carry out CNG vehicle conversions;
- (iii) also urge the Nigerian Institute of Welding (NIW) and other relevant agencies to develop training and certification programs for local artisans and workshops involved in CNG tank fabrication and installation to ensure that only certified professionals handle such highly sensitive tasks;
- (iv) advocate for the creation of a mandatory inspection and certification program for all vehicles using CNG, including periodic integrity checks of both the CNG cylinders and the vehicles on which they are mounted, thereby preventing dangerous failures;
- (v) further urge the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) to work in conjunction with relevant government bodies to monitor and enforce environmental safety standards in the manufacturing and usage of CNG tanks;
- (vi) still urge the Nigerian Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) to establish clear guidelines for the safe conversion of vehicles to CNG use and ensure that these guidelines are adhered to by all workshops and vehicle conversion centers;

- (vii) mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, and Industry to investigate the CNG cylinder explosion in Edo State that resulted in the tragic loss of lives and severe injuries to identify the causes and prevent future occurrences (*Hon. Fuad Kayode Laguda — Surulere I Federal Constituency, Lagos State*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (vii), immediately after the words “cylinder explosion”, *leave out* the words “in Edo State”, and *insert* the words “across the country” (*Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka Ayokunle — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (vii) as amended, immediately after the words “Committee on”, *insert* the words “Safety Standards and Regulations” (*Hon. Harrison Nwadike — 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 Federal Government's Presidential CNG Initiative seeks to promote the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as a cleaner, more affordable alternative to petrol and diesel in vehicles, thereby reducing dependence on imported fuel, lowering emissions, and making transportation more cost-effective for Nigerians;

Also noted that the Presidential CNG initiative is a component of the Palliative intervention of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration intervention program to cushion the resultant hardship effects of the fuel subsidy removal;

Further noted that CNG has proven to be a sustainable and viable alternative fuel for transportation in many countries worldwide, but its safe use hinges on proper manufacturing, installation, and inspection of the CNG tanks and systems used in vehicles;

Worried that the recent tragic incident in Edo State, where an explosion of a locally fabricated CNG cylinder resulted in the loss of lives, numerous injuries, and property damage, has highlighted the critical need to address the safety and integrity of CNG tanks produced and used in Nigeria;

Also worried that the lack of regulatory standards and legislation governing the local fabrication, installation, and inspection of CNG cylinders is causing a surge in the production of substandard tanks by unqualified artisans, leading to avoidable explosions and loss of lives;

Further worried that many CNG conversion workshops and artisans are operating without proper technical certification or oversight, creating unsafe conditions that endanger the lives of vehicle owners and passengers;

Concerned that without immediate legislative intervention to regulate the production, testing and certification of CNG tanks and installation processes more Nigerians will continue to face the risk of similar explosions, injuries, and fatalities;

Also concerned that the use of substandard materials, faulty installations and inadequate testing of CNG cylinders before their deployment in vehicles could undermine the success of the Presidential CNG Initiative and lead to widespread public mistrust in CNG technology;

Further concerned that the absence of mandatory integrity checks for CNG tanks and the vehicles they are mounted on further compounds the risks associated with the use of compressed natural gas for transportation;

Acknowledged the significant benefits that could be derived from the widespread adoption of CNG technology, including reduced transportation costs, improved air quality, and a boost to Nigeria's domestic gas industry;

Commended the Executive Arm of Government for its ongoing efforts under the Presidential CNG Initiative, while emphasizing the need to prioritize safety and compliance to maximize the benefits of CNG adoption for Nigerians;

Recognized that there is an urgent need to address the safety concerns associated with CNG use in Nigeria to prevent further carnage, safeguard lives and protect public confidence in CNG as a viable alternative fuel;

Resolved to:

- (i) propose and enact legislation that will regulate the production, installation and use of CNG tanks and systems in vehicles, ensuring that such processes meet internationally accepted safety standards and prevent the fabrication of substandard CNG tanks by unqualified individuals;
- (ii) urge the relevant departments of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) to collaborate on enforcing strict certification standards for the production and installation of CNG tanks and ensure that only qualified and accredited workshops are authorized to carry out CNG vehicle conversions;
- (iii) also urge the Nigerian Institute of Welding (NIW) and other relevant agencies to develop training and certification programs for local artisans and workshops involved in CNG tank fabrication and installation to ensure that only certified professionals handle such highly sensitive tasks;
- (iv) advocate for the creation of a mandatory inspection and certification program for all vehicles using CNG, including periodic integrity checks of both the CNG cylinders and the vehicles on which they are mounted, thereby preventing dangerous failures;
- (v) further urge the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) to work in conjunction with relevant government bodies to monitor and enforce environmental safety standards in the manufacturing and usage of CNG tanks;

- (vi) still urge the Nigerian Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDDC) to establish clear guidelines for the safe conversion of vehicles to CNG use and ensure that these guidelines are adhered to by all workshops and vehicle conversion centers;
- (vii) mandate the Committees on Safety Standards and Regulations, Gas Resources, and Industry to investigate the CNG cylinder explosion across the country that resulted in the tragic loss of lives and severe injuries to identify the causes and prevent future occurrences (HR. 192/11/2024).

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1905).
- (2) Federal College of Health Science, Technology and Tropical Medicine, Tarauni, Kano State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1863).
- (3) Quarterly Presentation of Budgets Implementation by Ministers on a Phone in Programme (Mandatory) Bill, 2024 (HB.1874).
- (4) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1899).
- (5) Medical and Dental Practitioners Act (Amendment) (HB.1900).
- (6) National Assisted Reproduction Technology and Surrogacy Board (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1902).
- (7) Lawful Interception of Telecommunications and Subscriber Privacy Protection Bill, 2024 (HB.1903).
- (8) Civil Aviation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1919).
- (9) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (Creation of a Multilayer Police Force in Nigeria) (HB.1920).
- (10) Estate Surveyors and Valuers (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1921).
- (11) Students Loans (Access to Higher Education) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1922).
- (12) Federal Polytechnics Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1916).
- (13) Trade Union Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1923).
- (14) Crypto and Related Currencies (Regulation) Bill, 2024 (HB.1932).
- (15) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) (Creation of Adada State Bill, 2024 (HB.1716).

- (16) National Agency for Revenue Generation Regulatory Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1376).
- (17) University of Agriculture and Development Studies, Iragbeji, Osun State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (SB.569).
- (18) Public Health Emergency Bill, 2024 (HB.1948).

8. Presentation of Report

Committees on Finance and National Planning, and Economic Development:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of Committees on Finance and National Planning, and Economic Development on the 2025-2027 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP)” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Expand the Scope and Meaning of Judicial Office to include the Magistrate Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and the Magistrate Court of a State and for Related Matters (HB. 1663) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Expand the Scope and Meaning of Judicial Office to include the Magistrate Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and the Magistrate Court of a State and for Related Matters (HB. 1663) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Makki Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency and 1 others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Constitution Review.

10. A Bill for an Act to ensure Proper Control of Usage of Artificial Intelligence (Ai) Technology in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 942) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to ensure Proper Control of Usage of Artificial Intelligence (Ai) Technology in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 942) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned for further legislative action.

11. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Incorporation of Risk Management functions in all Governmental Bodies in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 1625) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Incorporation of Risk Management functions in all Governmental Bodies in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 1625) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Zakaria Dauda Nyampa — Madagali/Michika 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 Justice.

12. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education, Ididep, Ibiono Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State and for Related Matters. (HB.972) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education, Ididep, Ibiono Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State and for Related Matters. (HB.972) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Uduak Alphonsus Odudoh — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo 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 Colleges of Education.

13. A Bill for an Act to Amend the River Basins Development Authorities Act, Cap. R9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 20004 to Provide for Establishment of Oji -Ebonyi River Basin Development Authority and the Lower Nigeria River Basin Development Authority and for Related Matters (HB. 1497) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the River Basins Development Authorities Act, Cap. R9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 20004 to Provide for Establishment of Oji -Ebonyi River Basin Development Authority and the Lower Nigeria River Basin Development Authority and for Related Matters (HB. 1497) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Anayo B. Onwuegbu — Aninri/Awgu/Oji River 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 Water Resources.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Vocational Training Centre, Riyom, Plateau State to Provide Full and Part Time Courses of Instruction in Different Fields of Study; and for Related Matters. (HB.1288) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Criminal Justice (Release From Custody) (Special Provisions) Act, Cap. C40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Comptroller General of Prisons to make monthly returns to the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chief Judges of the States to Order the release of persons detained in Prisons in circumstances specified in the Act and proffer more effective Prisons decongestion solution and for Related Matters (HB. 176) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Criminal Justice (Release From Custody) (Special Provisions) Act, Cap. C40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Comptroller General of Prisons to make monthly returns to the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chief Judges of the States to Order the release of persons detained in Prisons in circumstances specified in the Act and proffer more effective Prisons decongestion solution and for Related Matters (HB. 176) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Matthew Nwogu — Abo-Mbaise/Ngor Okpala 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 Justice.

16. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Food Technology, Alu, Yagba East, Kogi State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1289) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Food Technology, Alu, Yagba East, Kogi State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1289) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abejide Leke Joseph — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopa Muro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Establish National Commission for Technology Transfer, Acquisition and Promotion to monitor, on a continuous basis, the inflow of foreign products/technology to Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 591) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish National Commission for Technology Transfer, Acquisition and Promotion to monitor, on a continuous basis, the inflow of foreign

products/technology to Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 591) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Clement Ernest Jimbo — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika 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 Science and Technology.

18. Need to Implement Verifiable Documentation of Point of Sale (PoS) Users' and Fund Recipients' Identities in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the increasing challenges posed by the undocumented identities of Point of Sale (PoS) users and fund recipients in Nigeria, leading to opportunities for fraudulent activities within the financial system and the necessity to combat such illicit practices and safeguard the integrity of financial transactions within Nigeria;

Aware that undocumented PoS transactions from both parties identities create a loophole for fraudulent activities, such as identity theft, money laundering, and unauthorised transactions. Also, by enforcing the documentation of users' identity, the incidence of fraud will significantly reduce and the security of financial transactions in Nigeria will be enhanced;

Also aware that proper documentation of PoS users' identity fosters accountability among operators and users. This transparency will help trace transactions back to the individuals involved, holding them accountable for illegal activities conducted through the POS system, and ensure a lasting end to the criminal use of PoS;

Worried that there is an obvious regulatory bias and enforcement challenge towards due process by the relevant regulatory bodies and the urgency for immediate intervention to avert this ugly situation and shield Nigerians from the hands of criminalities through the use of the PoS system;

Also aware that establishing a system for verifiable documentation of PoS users' and recipients' identity aligns with the national and international financial regulatory requirements with the objective of preventing financial crimes and ensuring compliance with anti-money laundering (AML) and know your customer (KYC) regulations;

Cognizant that implementing stringent identity verification measures will protect consumers and businesses from becoming vulnerable to fraudulent schemes carried out through PoS transactions. Additionally, the process will build trust in the financial system and encourage greater participation in the growing cashless transactions system in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Digital and Electronic Banking, Finance, Banking Regulations, and Financial Crimes to invite the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Group Managing Directors (GMDs) of all Commercial Banks and Other Financial Institutions utilizing PoS services to appear before the Committees and find immediate and lasting measures to address this challenge and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Chike John Okafor — Ehime Mbano/Ihite-Uboma/Obowo Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

The House

Noted the increasing challenges posed by the undocumented identities of Point of Sale (PoS) users and fund recipients in Nigeria, leading to opportunities for fraudulent activities within the financial system and the necessity to combat such illicit practices and safeguard the integrity of financial transactions within Nigeria;

Aware that undocumented PoS transactions from both parties identities create a loophole for fraudulent activities, such as identity theft, money laundering, and unauthorised transactions. Also, by enforcing the documentation of users' identity, the incidence of fraud will significantly reduce and the security of financial transactions in Nigeria will be enhanced;

Also aware that proper documentation of PoS users' identity fosters accountability among operators and users. This transparency will help trace transactions back to the individuals involved, holding them accountable for illegal activities conducted through the POS system, and ensure a lasting end to the criminal use of PoS;

Worried that there is an obvious regulatory bias and enforcement challenge towards due process by the relevant regulatory bodies and the urgency for immediate intervention to avert this ugly situation and shield Nigerians from the hands of criminalities through the use of the PoS system;

Also aware that establishing a system for verifiable documentation of PoS users' and recipients' identity aligns with the national and international financial regulatory requirements with the objective of preventing financial crimes and ensuring compliance with anti-money laundering (AML) and know your customer (KYC) regulations;

Cognizant that implementing stringent identity verification measures will protect consumers and businesses from becoming vulnerable to fraudulent schemes carried out through PoS transactions. Additionally, the process will build trust in the financial system and encourage greater participation in the growing cashless transactions system in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Digital and Electronic Banking, Finance, Banking Regulations, and Financial Crimes to invite the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Group Managing Directors (GMDs) of all Commercial Banks and Other Financial Institutions utilizing PoS services to appear before the

Committees and find immediate and lasting measures to address this challenge and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 193/11/2024**).

19. Need to Investigate the Management of the Environmental Remediation Fund Established and Managed by the Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Commission

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

20. Need to Award Contract for the Construction of Geidam-Damasak Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the engineering design for the road was provided in the 2024 Appropriation Bill, but no contract was awarded for the execution of the project by the Federal Ministry of Works;

Also notes that the road is 75 kilometres long, covering Geidam, Mar, Balar, Yaro, Alai Lukuri, Umarari, Ajiri, Kudilmari, Masumari, Degeltura, Malam Abduri, Ambalamoi, Guwaya, Mattari, Bula Bulin, Malari Zagowa, Kaidiri, Ala Garo, and Isuri across to Damasak in Borno State;

Concerned that socioeconomic activities are in complete disarray as a result of the absence of a motorable highway, which could facilitate the flow of goods and services. Further, the lives and property of the people in those areas are exposed to insurgency;

Also concerned that the state of the road prevented the people living in communities from getting drugs from donor agencies and international organizations during the most severe phase of the Boko Haram Insurgency;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to, as a matter of urgency, work out all necessary documentation to award the project in earnest; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to carry out a detailed and holistic investigation to determine the reason for the non-award of contract for over a decade (*Hon. Lawan Sheittima Ali — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 194/11/2024).

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

21. Intervention on the Perpetual Attacks on Apa and Agatu Local Government Areas of Benue State:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that there has been sustained and unabated attacks on the people of Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency who are only engaged legitimate businesses of farming and fishing to sustain themselves and their families;

Also notes that as Nigerians celebrated the Independent Day on October 1, 2024, resident of Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency experienced Armageddon as invaders killed the IDP camp's remnants, who were initially displaced but returned to sow crops ahead of the dry season;

Disturbed that there was another attack on the Federal constituency, particularly on Egwuma, Olagbani, Okwutanobe, and Ogwule Ankpa and communities in Agatu Local Government Area in which lives and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed and frightening that the invaders disappeared without a trace and no action was taken to track and arrest the invaders;

Concerned that despite continual requests for government intervention to end the consistent unprovoked attacks, the killings continue unabated and the survivors of the attacks are displaced, wandering around homeless;

Cognizant of the need to establish a befitting Internally Displace Persons Camp in Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency to serve as a temporary home for the displaced person.

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the recent attacks;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Air Force, and other relevant security agencies to urgently move into the Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency, particularly the communities that have been made desolate, to mount surveillance to prevent further attacks and carry out clearance operations in the affected Communities;
- (iii) also urge the Military to immediately establish a large Military Base in the areas of attack to restore peace and prevent further attacks;
- (iv) further urge the National Emergency management Agency (NEMA) to quickly establish a befitting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps in Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency to serve as a temporary home for the displaced person and immediately provide relief materials to the survivors of the attack to cushion the effects of the unfortunate incident; and
- (v) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ojema Ojotu — Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that there has been sustained and unabated attacks on the people of Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency who are only engaged legitimate businesses of farming and fishing to sustain themselves and their families;

Also noted that as Nigerians celebrated the Independent Day on October 1, 2024, resident of Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency experienced Armageddon as invaders killed the IDP camp's remnants, who were initially displaced but returned to sow crops ahead of the dry season;

Disturbed that there was another attack on the Federal constituency, particularly on Egwuma, Olagbani, Okwutanobe, and Ogwule Ankpa and communities in Agatu Local Government Area in which lives and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed and frightening that the invaders disappeared without a trace and no action was taken to track and arrest the invaders;

Concerned that despite continual requests for government intervention to end the consistent unprovoked attacks, the killings continue unabated and the survivors of the attacks are displaced, wandering around homeless;

Cognizant of the need to establish a befitting Internally Displace Persons Camp in Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency to serve as a temporary home for the displaced person.

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the recent attacks;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Air Force, and other relevant security agencies to urgently move into the Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency, particularly the communities that have been made desolate, to mount surveillance to prevent further attacks and carry out clearance operations in the affected Communities;
- (iii) also urge the Military to immediately establish a large Military Base in the areas of attack to restore peace and prevent further attacks;
- (iv) urge the National Emergency management Agency (NEMA) to quickly establish a befitting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps in Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency to serve as a temporary home for the displaced person and immediately provide relief materials to the survivors of the attack to cushion the effects of the unfortunate incident; and
- (v) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 195/11/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

22. Consideration of Reports

- (i) ***Committees on Finance, and National Planning, and Economic Development:***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of Committees on Finance, and National Planning, and Economic Development on the 2025-2027 Medium Term

Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP)” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

Motion and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Seven, Rule 2 (2) to enable the Deputy Speaker preside on the Committee of Supply” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

“That the projected oil benchmark prices are USD75, USD76.2 and USD75.3 per barrel be approved for 2025, 2026 and 2027 respectively” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

“That the three-year projections for domestic crude oil production had a significant increase from 1.78 mbpd in the preceding year to 2.06, 2.10 and 2.35 for the subsequent years of 2025, 2026 and 2027 be approved” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

“That the National Assembly, through its Committees on Finance, National Planning and other relevant Committees should carry out in-depth investigation of such agreements by the NNPC, NLNG and Immigration Services with a view to reconcile remittances to the Federation Account” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

“That the Committees on Finance, Petroleum Upstream, and Petroleum Downstream are tasked to investigate reports from the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation, and Fiscal Responsibility Commission alleging that the NNPC withheld ₦8.48 trillion as claimed subsidies for petrol. Additionally, the investigation will address the NEITI report stating that NNPC failed to remit \$2 billion (₦3.6 trillion) in taxes to the Federal Government. The committees are further directed to verify the total cumulative amount of unremitted revenue (under-recovery) from the sale of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) by the NNPC between 2020 and 2023” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (v):

“That the GDP growth rate which is projected at 4.6%, 4.4% and 5.5% for years 2025, 2026 and 2027 respectively, be approved” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (vi):

“That the projected exchange rate which stands at ₦1400/USD for years 2025, 2026 and 2027 be approved subject however to review in early 2025 according to monetary and fiscal policies” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (vii):

“That the Inflation rates projections which are 15.75%, 14.21% and 10.04% for 2025, 2026 and 2027, be approved” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (viii):

“That the following the criteria in the overview of the framework for revenues and expenses, the 2025 Federal Government of Nigeria Budget proposed spending stands at ₦47.9 trillion, of which ₦34.82 trillion was retained; new borrowings stood at ₦9.22 trillion which constitutes both domestic and foreign borrowings; debt service was valued at ₦15.38 trillion; pensions, gratuities and retirees' benefits stood at ₦1.443 trillion and fiscal deficit at ₦13.08 trillion” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ix):

“That the Capital expenditure is projected at ₦16.48 trillion which is exclusive of transfers statutory transfers stand at ₦4.26 trillion; Sinking Fund is projected at ₦430.27 billion” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (x):

“That the Committee approves the respective figures for total recurrent (non-debt) at ₦14.21 trillion; special intervention for recurrent and capital is at ₦200 billion and ₦7 billion” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xi):

“That the National Assembly do approves the Promissory Note Programme and Bond Issuance to settle outstanding claims and liabilities of Federal Government owed to States, high priority judgments as well as liabilities incurred by Federal Ministries, Department and Agencies on behalf of Government” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xii):

“That the Committee recommends that a quarterly investigative hearing with revenue generating agencies to track their compliance with the Fiscal Responsibility Act and punish those in clear contravention of the Act” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiii):

“That the Committee on Finance review and initiate inquiry into the implementation of the Nigerian Export Supervision Scheme (NESS) Act, specifically focusing on the inspection and monitoring of oil and gas exports by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to ensure effectiveness, compliance, and oversight mechanisms under the Act, identify gaps or challenges, and enhance revenue for the Government, through transparency, accountability and efficiency of export supervision in line with national economic objectives” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiv):

“That the Committees on Finance and Customs to initiate an investigative inquiry into the operations of the Import Duty Exemption Certificate (IDEC) program, with a focus on the administration of import waivers and their impact on revenue losses by the Ministry of Finance and the Nigeria Customs Service, as a way of evaluating compliance, identify systemic gaps or irregularities, and recommend measures to enhance transparency, accountability and optimize revenue generation for the nation” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xv):

“That the Committee recommends that a performance metrics be established for MDAs with poor financial reporting standards and mandate regular independent audits of their accounts to ensure compliance” (*Hon. James Abiodun Falake — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report of Committees on Finance, and National Planning, and Economic Development on the 2025-2027 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP), and approved Recommendations (i) - (xv) of the Report.

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

- (ii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State to Make Comprehensive Provisions for Its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 669) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State to Make Comprehensive Provisions for Its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 669)” (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 FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UGBAWKA, NKANU EAST, ENUGU STATE TO MAKE COMPREHENSIVE PROVISIONS FOR ITS DUE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS (HB.1014)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT, CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONS
OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UGBAWKA,
NKANU EAST, ENUGU STATE

Clause 1: Establishment and Objects of the Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State.

- (1) There is hereby establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State (in this Bill referred to as "the University").
- (2) The University:
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; and
 - (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name *(Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

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

Clause 2: Objectives of the University.

The objectives of the University shall be to:

- (a) encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction the opportunity of acquiring higher education in Agriculture;

- (b) to develop and offer academic and professional programmes leading to the award of certificates, first degrees, post-graduate research and higher degrees with emphasis on planning, adaptive, technical, maintenance, developmental and productive skills in the engineering, scientific, and allied professional disciplines relating to Agric resources with the aim of producing socially mature men and women with capability not only to understand, use and adapt existing technologies in the Agriculture, but also to improve on them and develop new ones;
- (c) to act as agents and catalysts, through post-graduate training, research and innovation for the effective and economic utilization, exploitation and conservation of the country's Agriculture resources;
- (d) to offer to the general population particularly in the area Agriculture as a form of public service, the results of training and research and to foster the practical applications of these results;
- (e) to establish appropriate relationships with other national institutions involved in training, research and development of technologies in the Agric sector;
- (f) to identify the problems and needs of the Agriculture sector in Nigeria and to find solutions to them within the context of overall national development;
- (g) to provide and promote sound basic scientific training as a foundation for the development of Agriculture in Nigeria, taking into account indigenous cultures and the need to enhance national unity;
- (h) to encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research in restricted fields of learning and human endeavour
- (i) to undertake any other activities appropriate for an Agriculture university of the highest standard (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Functions of the University.

The University shall:

- (a) encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction, the opportunity of acquiring a higher education in Agric and other agricultural related sciences;
- (b) develop and offer academic and professional programs leading to the award of certificates, first degrees, postgraduate research and higher degrees with emphasis planning, adaptive technical maintenance, development and productive skills in the field of Agric and related disciplines, with the aim of producing graduates with capacity not only to understand, use and adapt existing technologies in the Agric industry, but also to improve on those disciplines and

develop new ones and contribute to the scientific transformation of Agric practices in Nigeria;

- (c) promote training, research and innovation for the effective and economic utilization, exploitation and conservation of Nigeria's natural, economic and human resources;
- (d) offer results of training and research in Agric and related studies and foster the practical application of those results;
- (e) establish appropriate relationships with other national institutions involved in training, research and development of Agric related fields;
- (f) identify Agric problems and needs of Nigeria and proffer solutions;
- (g) provide and promote sound basic scientific training as a foundation for the development of Agriculture and related studies, taking into the account the need to vastly increase the practical content of training and adequate preparation of students for self-employment in agric and related professions;
- (h) promote and emphasize teaching and research in agric extension services and outreach programs, in-service training, continuing education and adaptive research;
- (i) establish institutional linkages in order to foster collaboration and integration of training, research and extension activities;
- (j) advise and report regularly to the ministry of education on all matters relevant to agric sciences sector and its education and research programs; and
- (k) undertake any other activities appropriate for the university and necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Composition of the University.

- (1) The University shall consist of:
 - (a) a Chancellor;
 - (b) a Pro-Chancellor and a Council;
 - (c) a Vice Chancellor and a Senate;
 - (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor(s);
 - (e) a body to be called Congregation;

- (f) a body to be called Convocation;
 - (g) the campuses and colleges of the University;
 - (h) the faculties, schools, institutes and other teaching and research units of the University;
 - (i) the persons holding the offices constituted by the First Schedule to this Bill other than those mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) of this subclause;
 - (j) all graduates and undergraduates; and
 - (k) all other persons who are members of the University in accordance with provisions made by Statute in that behalf.
- (2) The First Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the Principal Officers of the University mentioned therein.
- (3) Provision shall be made by Statute with respect to the constitution of the following bodies, namely:
- (a) the Council;
 - (b) the Senate;
 - (c) the Congregation; and
 - (d) the Convocation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Powers of the University.

- (1) For the carrying out of its objects as specified in Section 2 of this Bill, the University shall have power to:
- (a) establish such campuses, colleges, faculties, institutes, schools, extra-mural departments and other teaching and research units within the University as may from time to time seem necessary or desirable, subject to the approval of the National Universities Commission;
 - (b) institute professorships, readerships and associate professorships, lectureships and other posts and offices and to make appointments thereto;
 - (c) institute and award fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, medals, prizes and other titles, distinctions, awards and forms of assistance;

- (d) provide for the residence, discipline and welfare of members of the University;
- (e) hold examinations and award degrees, certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the University and have satisfied such other requirements as the University may lay down;
- (f) award honorary degrees, fellowships or academic titles;
- (g) demand and receive from any student or any other person attending the University for the purpose of instruction such fees as the University may from time to time determine, subject to the overall directives of the appropriate authority;
- (h) subject to section 22 of this Bill, to acquire, hold, grant, charge or otherwise deal with or dispose of movable and immovable property wherever situate;
- (i) accept gifts, legacies and donations, but without obligation to accept the same for a particular purpose unless it approves the terms and conditions attaching thereto;
- (j) enter into contracts, establish trusts, act as trustee, solely or jointly with any other person, and employ and act through agents;
- (k) erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, laboratories, lecture halls, halls of residence, refectories, sports grounds, playing fields and other buildings or things necessary, suitable or convenient for any of the objects of the University;
- (l) hold public lectures and undertake printing, publishing and book selling;
- (m) subject to any limitations or conditions imposed by Statute, to invest any moneys appertaining to the University by law of endorsement, whether for general or special purposes, and such other moneys as may not be immediately required for current expenditure, in any investments or securities or in the purchase or improvement of land, with power from time to time to vary any such investments and to deposit any moneys for the time being un-invested with any bank on deposit or current account;
- (n) borrow, whether on interest or not, and if need be, upon the security of any or all of the property movable or immovable of the University, such moneys as the Council may from time to time in its discretion find necessary or expedient to borrow or to guarantee any loan, advances or credit facilities;
- (o) make gifts for any charitable purpose;

- (p) do anything which it is authorized or required by this Bill or by any other Statute to do; and
 - (q) do all such acts or things, whether or not incidental to the foregoing powers, as may advance the objects of the University.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill and of the Statutes made thereunder and without prejudice to Section 9 (2) of this Bill, the powers conferred on the University by subsection (1) of this section shall be exercisable on behalf of the University by the Council or by the Senate or in any other manner which may be authorized by this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART II — MANAGEMENT BOARD

Clause 6: Appointment and Functions of the Chancellor.

- (1) There shall be appointed for the university a Vice-Chancellor, who shall in relation to the university, take precedence before all other members of the university, except the Chancellor and any other person for the time being acting as the Chairman of the council.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor shall have the general function, in addition to any other functions conferred on him by this Bill or otherwise, of directing the activities of the University and shall be the chief Executive and academic officer of the university and Ex-Officio Chairperson of the Senate (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: Appointment and function of the Pro-Chancellor.

There is be appointed a Pro-Chancellor for the University, who shall —

- (a) in relation to the University, take precedence before all other members of the university, except the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor when Billing as a Chairman of the congregation or convocation;
- (b) when present, be the Chairperson at all meetings of the Council; and
- (c) subject to the provisions of this Bill hold office for a period of five years, and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: Functions of the Vice-Chancellor.

- (1) The Vice-Chancellor shall, in relation to the University, take precedence before all other members of the University except the Chancellor and, subject to section 5 of this Bill, the Pro-Chancellor and any other person for the time being acting as Chairman of the Council.

- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor shall have general function, in addition to any other functions conferred on him by this Bill or otherwise, of directing the activities of the University, and shall to the exclusion of any other person or authority be the chief executive and academic officer of the University and ex-officio Chairman of the Senate (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Establishment and composition of the Council.

- (1) There shall be established for the management of the affairs of the university, a governing Council (in this Bill referred to as 'The Council') which shall consist of —
- (a) a Pro-Chancellor;
 - (b) Vice-Chancellor;
 - (c) Deputy Vice-Chancellor(s);
 - (d) one person from the Ministry responsible for matters relating to education;
 - (e) one person from the Ministry responsible for matters relating to agriculture;
 - (f) a representative from the National University Commission;
 - (g) four persons representing a variety of interests and broad representative of the Federation to be appointed by the president;
 - (h) four persons appointed by the Senate from among its members.
 - (i) two persons appointed by the Congregation from among its members;
 - (j) one person appointed by Convocation from among its members;
- (2) Persons to be appointed to the Council shall be persons of proven integrity, knowledgeable, and familiar with affairs and tradition of University system (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 10: Functions of the Council and its Finance and General Purposes Committee.

- (1) The Council shall —
- (a) subject to the provisions of this Bill relating to the visitor, be the governing body of the university and shall be charged with the general control and superintendence of the policy and property of the university;

- (b) have a committee of the council to be known as the Finance and General Purposes Committee, which shall, subject to the directions of the Council, exercise control over the property and expenditure of the University and perform such other functions of the council as the Council may, from time to time delegate to it;
 - (c) shall make a statute with respect to the constitution of the Finance and General Purposes Committee;
 - (d) ensure that proper accounts of the University are kept and that the accounts are audited annually by an independent firm of auditors approved by the Council and that an annual report shall be published by the University together with certified copies of the audited accounts;
 - (e) in conjunction with the Finance and General Purposes Committee and subject to this Bill the statutes make rules for regulating their own procedure;
 - (f) approve the rules made under paragraph (e) of this clause by the Finance and General Purposes Committee before coming into force, and in so far and to the extent that any rules made by that Committee conflict with any directions given by the Council (whether before or after the coming into force of the rules in question), the direction of the Council shall prevail; and
 - (g) meet as and when necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill and shall meet at least three times in every year;
- (2) There shall be paid to the members of the Council, the Finance and General Purposes Committee and any other Committee set up by the Council and allowance in respect of travelling and other reasonable expenses, at such rates as may from time to time, be fixed by the Minister.
 - (3) Where a written request for a meeting is made by any five members of the Council, the Chairman shall within 28 days after the receipt of such request call a meeting of the Council, and such request shall specify the business of the meeting and a business not so specified shall not be transacted at the meeting (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Functions of the Senate.

- (1) Subject to section 5 of this Bill and subsections (3) and (4) of this section and to the provisions of this Bill relating to the Visitor, it shall be the general function of the Senate to organize arid control teaching in the University, admission to Postgraduate courses and other admission of students, the discipline of students and to promote research in the University.

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- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, it shall in particular be the function of the Senate to make provision for the:
- (a) establishment, organization and control of campuses, colleges, faculties, departments, schools, institutes and other teaching and research units of the University, and the allocation of responsibility for different branches of learning;
 - (b) organization and control of courses of study in the University and of the examinations held in conjunction with those courses, including the appointment of examiners, both internal and external;
 - (c) award of degrees, and such other qualifications as may be prescribed, in connection with examinations conducted by the University;
 - (d) making of recommendations to the Council with respect to the award to any person of an honorary fellowship or honorary degree or the title of professor emeritus;
 - (e) establishment, organization and control of halls of residence and similar institutions in the University;
 - (f) supervision of the welfare of students in the University and the regulation of their conduct;
 - (g) granting of fellowships, scholarships, prizes and similar awards in so far as the awards are within the control of the University; and
 - (h) determination of what description of dress shall be academic dress for the purposes of the University, and regulating the use of academic dress.
- (3) The Senate shall not establish any new campus, college, faculty, department, school, institute or other teaching and research units of the University, or any hall of residence or similar institution at the University without the approval of the Council.
- (4) (a) Subject to this Bill and the Statutes, the Senate may make regulations for the purpose of exercising any function conferred on it either by the provisions of this section or for the purpose of providing for any matter for which provision by regulation is authorized or required by this Bill or by Statute.
- (b) The Senate shall, by regulation, provide that at least one of the persons appointed as examiners at each final or professional examination held in conjunction with any course of study in the University is not a teacher at the University but is a teacher at the branch of learning to which the course relates in some other university of high repute.

- (5) Subject to a right of appeal to the Council from a decision of the Senate under this subsection, the Senate may deprive any person of any degree, diploma or other award of the University which has been conferred on him if after due enquiry he is shown to have been guilty of any dishonorable or scandalous conduct in gaining admission into the University or obtaining that award (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART III — FINANCIAL PROVISION

Clause 12: Establishment of Fund of the University.

- (1) The Council shall establish and maintain a fund from which all expenses incurred by the University for the execution of its function under this Bill shall be paid.
- (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established under subsection (1) of this section:
- (a) grants, Subventions and budgetary allocations received from the Government of the Federation including such moneys as may be appropriated to the University, from time to time, by the National Assembly;
 - (b) such sums as may from time to time be granted to the Council by the Federal Government through the National University Commission (NUC);
 - (c) such moneys as may from time to time be lent or granted to the University by the Federal, State or Local Government;
 - (d) all subscriptions, fees and charges for services rendered by the Council and all other sums that may accrue to the Council from any source;
 - (e) all sums accrued to the University by way of gifts, endowments, bequests, grants, donations, subsidies or other contributions by persons, organizations and donor agencies.
- (3) The Council shall submit to the Minister Through the National University Commission (NUC), not later than three months before the end of each financial year or at such other time as he may direct an estimate of its revenue and expenditure for the next succeeding financial year (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 13: Accounts and Audit.

The Council shall keep proper accounts of its receipts, payments, assets and liabilities

and shall in respect of each year cause the accounts to be audited (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Annual Reports.

The Council shall as soon as may be after the expiration of each financial year. Prepare and submit to the Minister a report of its activities during the immediately preceding financial year and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the University for that year and of the auditor's report on the accounts (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Pension.

- (1) It is hereby declared that service in the University shall be approved service for the purposes of the Pensions reform Act and accordingly, officers and other persons employed in the University shall in respect of their service in the University be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are prescribed there under, so however, that nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a pension and gratuity in respect of that office.
- (2) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the Pensions Reform Act, any power exercisable there under by a Minister or other authority of the Government of the Federation (other than the Power to make regulations) shall be exercisable by the University and not by any other person or authority (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART IV — STATUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Clause 16: Power of the University to make Statues.

- (1) Subject to this Bill, the University may make Statutes for any of the following purposes:
 - (a) making provision with respect to the composition and constitution of any authority of the University;
 - (b) specifying and regulating the powers and duties of any authority of the University, and regulating any other matter connected with the University or any of its authorities;
 - (c) regulating the admission of students where it is done by the University, and their discipline and welfare;
 - (d) determining whether any particular matter is to be treated as an

academic or non- academic matter for the purposes of this Bill and of any Statute, regulation or other instrument made there-under; and

- (e) making provision for other matters for which provision by Statute is authorized or required by this Bill.
- (2) Subject to section 25 (6) of this Bill, the Interpretation Act shall apply in relation to any Statute made under this section as it applies to a subsidiary instrument within the meaning of section 27 (1) of that Act.
- (3) The Statute contained in the Second Schedule to this Bill shall be deemed to have come into force on the commencement of this Bill and shall be deemed to have been made under this section by the University.
- (4) The power to make Statute conferred by this section shall not be prejudiced or limited in any way by reason of the inclusion or omission of any matter in or from the Statute contained in the Third Schedule to this Bill or any subsequent Statute (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 17: Mode of exercising the power to make Statutes.

- (1) The power of the University to make Statutes shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- (2) A proposed Statute shall not have the force of law until it has been approved at a meeting of the:
 - (a) Senate, by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting; and
 - (b) Council by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting.
- (3) A proposed Statute may originate either in the Senate or Council, and may be approved as required by subsection (2) of this section by both bodies in no particular order.
- (4) A Statute which:
 - (a) makes provision for or alters the composition or constitution of the Council, the Senate or any other authority of the University; or
 - (b) provides for the establishment of a new campus or college or for the amendment or revocation of any Statute whereby a campus or college is established; shall not come into operation unless it has been approved by the Visitor.

- (5) For the purpose of section 2 (2) of the Interpretation Act, a Statute shall be treated as being made on the date on which it is approved by the Council and the Senate in accordance with subsection (3) of this section or in the case of a Statute falling within subsection (4) of this section, on the date on which it is approved by the President (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 18: Proof of Statute.

A Statute may be proved in any court by the production of a copy thereof bearing or having affixed to it a certificate signed by the Vice-Chancellor or the Registrar to the effect that the copy is a true copy of a Statute of that University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 19: Power to decide the meaning of Statute.

- (1) In the event of any doubt or dispute arising at any time as to the meaning of any provision of a Statute, the matter may be referred to the Visitor, who shall take such advice and make such decision thereon as he deems fit.
- (2) The decision of the Visitor on any matter referred to him under this section shall be binding upon the authorities, staff and students of that University and where any question as to the meaning of any provision of a statute has been decided by the Visitor under this section, no question as to the meaning of that provision shall be entertained by any other authority in Nigeria:

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall affect the power of a court of competent jurisdiction to determine whether any provision of a statute is wholly or partly void as being ultra vires or as being inconsistent with the Constitution.

- (3) The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply in relation to any doubt or dispute as to whether any matter is, for the purposes of this Bill, academic or a non-academic matter as they apply in relation to any such doubt or dispute as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, and accordingly the reference in subsection (2) of this section to any question as to the meaning of any provision of a statute shall include references to any question as to whether any matter is for the said purposes an academic or non-academic matter (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART V — SUPERVISION AND DISCIPLINE

Clause 20: The Visitor.

- (1) The President shall be the Visitor of the University.

- (2) The Visitor shall as often as the circumstances may require, not being less than once every five years, conduct a visitation of the University or direct that such a visitation be conducted by such persons as the Visitor may deem fit and in respect of any of the affairs of the University.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the bodies and persons comprising the University to:
 - (a) make available to the Visitor, and to any other persons conducting a visitation in pursuance of this section, such facilities and assistance as he or they may reasonably require for the purpose of the visitation; and
 - (b) give effect to any instructions consistent with the provisions of this Bill which may be given by the Visitor in consequence of the visitation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 21: Removal of certain Members of the Council.

- (1) If it appears to the Council that a member (other than the Pro-Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor) should be removed from office on grounds of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council shall make a recommendation to that effect through the Minister, after making such enquiries (if any) as may be considered necessary, approves the recommendation it may direct the removal of the member from office.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Minister to use his best endeavors to cause a copy of the instrument embodying a direction under subsection (1) of this section to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 22: Removal and discipline of Academic, Administrative and Professional Staff.

- (1) If it appears to the Council that there are reasons for believing that any person employed as a member of the academic, administrative or professional staff of the University, other than the Vice-Chancellor, should be removed from office or on grounds of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office Council shall:
 - (a) give notice of those reasons to the person in question;
 - (b) afford such person an opportunity of making representation in person on the matter to the Council; and
 - (c) take a decision to terminate or not to terminate the appointment.
- (2) If the affected staff or any three members of the Council so request within a period of one month from the date of receipt of the notice of the Council's decision, the Council shall make arrangements for:

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- (a) a joint committee of the Council and the Senate to review the matter and to report on it to the Council;
 - (b) the person in question to be afforded an opportunity to appear before and be heard by an investigating committee with respect to the matter; and if the Council after considering the report of the investigating committee, is satisfied that the person in question should be removed, the Council may so remove him by an instrument in writing signed on the directions of the Council.
 - (3) The Vice-Chancellor may, in a case of gross misconduct by a member of staff which in the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor is prejudicial to the interest of the University, suspend such member and any such suspension shall immediately be reported to the Council.
 - (4) Any member of staff may be suspended from duty or his appointment may be terminated by Council for a good cause and for the purposes of this subsection "good cause" means:
 - (a) conviction for any offence which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office;
 - (b) any physical or mental incapacity which the Council, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold office;
 - (c) conduct of a scandalous or disgraceful nature which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold office; or
 - (d) conduct which the Council considers to be such as to constitute failure or inability of the person concerned to discharge the functions of his office or to comply with the terms and conditions of his service.
 - (5) Any person suspended pursuant to subsection (3) of this section shall be on half pay and the Council shall before the expiration of a period of three months from the date of such suspension consider the case against that person and come to a decision as to whether to:
 - (a) continue such person's suspension and if so on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to him);
 - (b) reinstate such person in which case the Council shall restore his full emoluments with effect from the date of suspension;
 - (c) terminate the appointment of the person concerned in which case such a person will not be entitled to the proportion of his emoluments withheld during the period of suspension; or

- (d) take such lesser disciplinary action against such person (including the restoration of such proportion of his emoluments that might have been withheld) as the Council may determine.
- (6) Where the Council, pursuant to this section, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against the person, the Council shall, before the expiration of three months from such decision come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning such a person.
- (7) It shall be the duty of the person by whom an instrument of removal is signed in pursuance of subsection (1) above to use his best endeavors to cause a copy of the instrument to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates.
- (8) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall prevent the Council from making regulations for the discipline of staff and workers of the University as may be appropriate (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 23: Removal of Examiners.

- (1) If, on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, it appears to the Senate that a person appointed as an examiner for any examination of the University ought to be removed from his office or appointment, then, the Senate may, after affording the examiner an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter, direct the Vice-Chancellor to remove the examiner by an instrument in writing signed by the Registrar.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of any regulation made pursuant to section 8 (4) of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor may, on the recommendation of Senate, appoint an appropriate person as examiner in the place of the examiner removed.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the Registrar on signing an instrument of removal pursuant to this section, to use his best endeavours to cause a copy of the instrument to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 24: Discipline of Students.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where it appears to the Vice-Chancellor that any student is guilty of misconduct, the Vice-Chancellor may, without prejudice to any other disciplinary powers conferred on him by Statute or regulations, direct that the:
 - (a) student shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in such activities of the University or make use of such facilities of the University as may be so specified;

- (b) activities of the student shall, during such period as may be specified in the direction, be restricted in such manner as may be so specified;
 - (c) student be rusticated for such period as may be specified in the direction; or
- (2) Where a direction is given under subsection (1) paragraphs (c) or (d) of this section in respect of any student, the student may, within the prescribed period and in the prescribed manner, appeal against the direction to the Senate.
- (3) Where an appeal is brought pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the Senate shall, after causing such inquiry to be made in the matter as the Senate considers just, either confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Senate thinks fit.
- (4) The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending.
- (5) The Vice-Chancellor may delegate his powers under this section to a disciplinary board consisting of such members of the University as he may nominate.
- (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the restriction or termination of a student's activities at the University for conduct which in the opinion of Senate is prejudicial to the interest of the University or to its corporate objective or image.
- (7) A direction under subsection (1) (a) of this section may be combined with a direction under subsection (1) (b) of this section (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Clause 25: Exclusion or discrimination on account of race, religion, etc.

- (1) No person shall be required to satisfy requirements as to any of the following matters, that is to say, race (including ethnic grouping) sex, place of birth, family origin, religious or political persuasion, as a condition for becoming or continuing to be a:
 - (a) student in the University;
 - (b) holder of any degree, appointment or employment in the University; or
 - (c) member of anybody established by virtue of this Bill.
- (2) No person shall be subjected to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in

relation to the University by reference to any of the matters referred to in subsection (1) of this section.

- (3) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall be construed as preventing the University from imposing any disability or restriction on any of the persons specified in subsection (1) of this section where such persons wilfully refuse or fail on grounds of religious belief to undertake any duty generally and uniformly imposed on all such persons or any group of them which duty, having regard to its nature and the special circumstances, is in the opinion of the University reasonably justifiable in the national interest (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 26: Transfer of land to the University.

- (1) For the purpose of the Land Use Act (which provides for the compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes) any purpose of the University shall be the same as that of the Federation.
- (2) Where an estate or interest in land is acquired by the Government pursuant to this section, the Government may, by a certificate under the hand and seal of the University or any other person authorized in that behalf transfer it to the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 27: Restriction on disposal of land by University.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Land Use Act, the University shall not dispose of or charge any land or an interest in any land (including any land transferred to the University by this Bill) except with the prior written consent, either general or special, of the Visitor:

Provided that such consent shall not be required in the case of any lease or tenancy at a rack-rent for a term not exceeding twenty-one years of any lease or tenancy to a member of the University for residential purpose (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 28: Quorum and procedure of bodies established by this Bill.

Except as may be otherwise provided by Statute or by Regulation, the quorum and procedure of any body of persons established by this Bill shall be such as may be determined by that body (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 29: Appointment of Committees, etc.

- (1) Anybody of persons established by this Bill shall, without prejudice to the

generality of the powers of that body, have power to appoint committees, which need not consist exclusively of members of that body and authorize a committee established by it to:

- (a) exercise on its behalf, such of its functions as it may determine; and
 - (b) co-opt members and direct whether or not co-opted members shall be entitled to vote in that committee.
- (2) Any two or more such bodies may arrange for the holding of joint meetings of those bodies or for the appointment of committees consisting of members of those bodies, for the purpose of considering any matter within the competence of those bodies or any of them and either dealing with it or of reporting on it to those bodies or any of them.
- (3) Except as may be otherwise provided by Statute or Regulations, the quorum and procedure of a committee established or meeting held pursuant to this section shall be such as may be determined by the body or bodies which have decided to establish the committee or hold the meeting.
- (4) The Pro-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor shall be members of every committee of which the members are wholly or partly appointed by the Council, (other than a committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of the officer in question) and the Vice-Chancellor shall be a member of every committee of which the members are wholly or partly appointed by the Senate.
- (5) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall be construed as enabling:
 - (a) statutes to be made otherwise than in accordance with section 11 of this Bill; or
 - (b) the Senate to empower any other body to make Regulations or to award degrees or other qualifications (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 30: Miscellaneous Administrative provisions.

- (1) The seal of the University shall be such as may be determined by the Council and approved by the Chancellor and the affixing of the seal shall:
 - (a) in the case of certificates issued by the University, be authenticated by the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar; and
 - (b) in the case of any other document, be authenticated by any member of Council, the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar or any other person authorized by Statute.

- (2) Any document purporting to be a document executed under the seal of the University shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.
- (3) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the University by any person generally or specially authorized to do so by the Council without seal.
- (4) The validity of the proceedings of anybody established pursuant to this Bill shall not be affected by any member of any such body who has a personal interest in any matter proposed to be considered by that body shall disclose his interest to the body and shall not vote on any question relating to that matter.
- (5) Nothing in section 12 of the Interpretation Act (which provides for the application, in relation to subordinate legislation, of certain incidental provisions) shall apply to Statutes or Regulations made pursuant to this Bill.
- (6) The power conferred by this Bill on anybody to make Statute or Regulations shall include power to revoke or vary any:
 - (a) Statute (including the Statute contained in the Third Schedule to this Bill; or
 - (b) regulation by a subsequent Statute or Regulation as the case may be:

Provided that the Statutes and Regulations may have different provisions in relation to different circumstances.
- (7) No stamp or other duty shall be payable in respect of any transfer of property to the University by virtue of sections 10, 21 and the Second Schedule to this Bill.
- (8) Any notice or other instrument authorized to be served by virtue of this Bill may, without prejudice to any other mode of service, be served by post (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 31: Interpretation.

- (1) In this Bill:

"appropriate authority" means any person, body or authority authorized by law to act in a specific or general capacity in relation to a subject matter (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"campus" means any campus which may be established by the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"college" means any college which may be established by the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"graduate" means a person on whom a degree (other than an honorary degree) has been conferred by the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"gross misconduct" means any act of misconduct and improper behaviour that may be designated as gross misconduct by any Statute or Regulation made, pursuant to this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for education (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"misconduct" means any conduct which is prejudicial to the good name of the University and or discipline and the proper administration of the business of the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"notice" means notice in writing (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"officer" does not include the Visitor (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word “officer” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"prescribed" means prescribed by Statute or Regulation made under this Bill (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Question that the meaning of the word “prescribed” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"professor" means a person designated as a professor of the University in accordance with provisions made in that behalf by Statute or by Regulations (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Question that the meaning of the word “professor” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"property" includes rights, liabilities and obligations (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Question that the meaning of the word “property” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"the provisional Council" means the provisional Council appointed for the University by the President with effect from September 2016 (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Question that the meaning of the words “the provisional Council” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"regulations" means regulations made by the Senate or Council (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Question that the meaning of the word “regulations” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Senate" means the Senate of the University established by the Act (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Question that the meaning of the word “Senate” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Statute" means a Statute made by the University under section 11 of this Bill and in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of this Bill (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Question that the meaning of the word “Statute” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"the Statutes" means all such Statutes as are in force from time to time (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"teacher" means a person holding a full time appointment as a member of the teaching or research staff of the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "teacher" 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.

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

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

"undergraduate" means a person in statu-pupillary in the University, other than:

- (a) a graduate; and
- (b) a person of such description as may be prescribed for the purposes of this definition (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"the University" the Federal University of Agriculture Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State incorporated and constituted by this Bill; and (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"the Act" means the Federal University of Agriculture Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State Act (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

- (2) Where in any provision of this Bill, it is laid down that proposals are to be submitted or a recommendation is to be made by one authority to another through one or more intermediate authorities, it shall be the duty of every such intermediate authority to forward any proposals or recommendations received by it pursuant to that provision to the appropriate authority; but any such intermediate authority may, if it thinks fit, forward therewith its own comments thereon (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 32: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 4 (2)

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Chancellor

1. The Chancellor shall be appointed by and hold office at the pleasure of the President.

The Pro-Chancellor

2. (1) The Pro-Chancellor shall be appointed or removed from office by the President.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Pro-Chancellor shall hold office for a period of four years from the date of his appointment.

The Vice-Chancellor

3. The procedure for the appointment and removal of the Vice-Chancellor shall be in accordance with the provision of the University (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1993 as amended.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor(s)

4. (1) There shall be for the University, two Deputy Vice-Chancellors or such number of Deputy Vice Chancellors as the Council may, from time to time, deem necessary for the proper administration of the University.
- (2) The procedure for the appointment and removal of the Deputy Vice Chancellor shall be

in accordance with the provisions of the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 as amended.

- (3) A Deputy Vice-Chancellor shall:
- (a) assist the Vice-Chancellor in the performance of his functions;
 - (b) act in place of the Vice-Chancellor when the post of the Vice-Chancellor is vacant or if the Vice-Chancellor is, for any reason, absent or unable to perform his functions as Vice-Chancellor; and
 - (c) perform such other functions as the Vice-Chancellor or the Council may, from time to time, assign to him.

Office of the Registrar, Bursar and University Librarian

5. (1) There shall be for the University, a Registrar, who shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the University and shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration of the University except as regards matters for which the Bursar is responsible in accordance with paragraph 6 (2) below.
- (2) The person holding the office of Registrar shall by virtue of that office be Secretary to the Council, the Senate, Congregation and Convocation.
- (3) The Registrar shall hold office for such period and on such terms and conditions as to emoluments as may be specified in his letter of appointment.
6. (1) There shall be for the University, the following Principal Officers in addition to the Registrar that is:
- (a) the Bursar; and
 - (b) the University Librarian.
- (2) The Bursar shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the University and shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration and control of the financial affairs of the University.
- (3) The University Librarian shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the administration of the University Library and the co-ordination of all library services in the University and its campuses, colleges, faculties, schools, departments and institutes and other teaching or research units.
- (4) The Bursar and the University Librarian:
- (a) shall each hold office for such period and on such terms and conditions as to emoluments as may be specified in his letter of appointment.

Other Officers of the University

7. There shall be for the University, a Director of Works, who shall be responsible to the Vice Chancellor for the administration of the Works Department. He shall be responsible for all works, services and maintenance of University facilities.
8. There shall be for the University, a Director of Health Services, who shall be responsible to the Vice Chancellor for the administration of the Health Centre. He shall be the Chief Medical Officer of the University and shall coordinate all matters relating to the health of all staff and students.

Resignation and re-appointment

9. (1) Any officer mentioned in the foregoing provisions of this schedule may resign his office in:
 - (a) the case of the Chancellor or Pro-Chancellor, by notice to the Visitor; and
 - (b) the case of the Vice-Chancellor by notice to the Council which shall immediately notify the Minister.
- (2) A person who has ceased to hold an office so mentioned otherwise than by removal for misconduct shall be eligible for re-appointment to that office (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 16 (3)

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UGBAWKA,
NKANU EAST, ENUGU STATE STATUTE No.1**

Articles:

1. The Council.
2. Finance and General Purpose Committee
3. The Senate.
4. The Congregation.
5. Convocation.
6. Organization of Faculties and the Branches thereof.
7. Faculty Board.
8. The Dean of the Faculty.
9. Selection of Certain Principal and other key officers.
10. Creation of Academic Post.
11. Appointment of Academic Staff.
13. Appointment of Administrative and Technical Staff.

The Council

1. (1) Any member of Council holding office pursuant to section 6 (e), (f), (g) or (h) of this Bill may, by notice to the Council resign his office.
- (2) A member of Council holding office pursuant to section 6 (e), (f), (g) or (h) of this Bill shall, unless he previously vacates it, vacate that office on the expiration of a period of four years starting from 1st August in the year in which he was appointed.
- (3) Where a member of Council holding office pursuant to section 6 (e), (f), (g) or (h) of this Bill vacates office before the expiration of his tenure, the body that appointed him may appoint a successor to hold office for the residue of his unexpired term.
- (4) A person ceasing to hold office as a member of Council otherwise than by removal for misconduct shall be eligible for reappointment for only one further period of four years.
- (5) The quorum of the Council shall be five, at least one of whom shall be a member pursuant to Section 6 (d) and (e) of this Bill.
- (6) If the Pro-Chancellor is not present at a meeting of the Council, the members present at the meeting may appoint one of them to be the Chairman at that meeting, and subject to section 5 of this Bill and the provisions of this paragraph the Council may regulate its own procedure.
- (7) Where the Council desires to obtain advice with respect to any particular matter, it may co-opt not more than two persons for that purpose; and the persons co-opted may take part in the deliberations of the Council at any meeting but shall not be entitled to vote.
- (8) The Council constituted by this Bill shall have a four year tenure from the date of its inauguration, provided that where a Council is found to be incompetent and corrupt, it shall be dissolved by the visitor and a new Council shall be immediately constituted for the effective functioning of the University.
- (9) The powers of the Council shall be exercised in accordance with the laws and Statutes of the University, and to that extent, establishment circulars that are inconsistent with the laws and Statutes of the University shall not apply to the University.

The Finance and General Purpose Committee

2. (1) The Finance and General Purpose Committee of the Council shall consist of:
 - (a) the Pro-Chancellor, who shall be the Chairman of the committee at any meeting at which he is present;
 - (b) the Vice-Chancellor and a Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
 - (c) six other members of the Council appointed by the Council two of whom shall be selected from among the four members of the Council appointed by the

Senate and one of whom shall be selected from among members of the Council appointed by the congregation; and

- (d) the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education or, in his absence, such member of his Ministry as he may designate to represent him.
- (2) The quorum of the Committee shall be six.
- (3) Subject to any directions given by the Council, the committee may regulate its own procedure.

The Senate

- 3. (1) There shall be a Senate for the University consisting of:
 - (a) the Vice-Chancellor;
 - (b) the Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
 - (c) all Professors of the University;
 - (d) all Deans, Provosts and Directors of Academic units of the University;
 - (e) all Heads of Academic Departments, Units and Research Institutes of the University;
 - (f) the University Librarian; and
 - (g) academic members of the congregation who are not Professors as specified in the Laws of the University.
- (2) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the chairman at all meetings of the Senate when he is present and in his absence, one of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors appointed by him shall be the chairman at the meeting.
- (3) The quorum of the Senate shall be one-quarter (or the nearest whole number less than one quarter), and subject to paragraph (2) above the Senate may regulate its own procedure.
- (4) If so requested in writing by any ten members of the Senate, the Vice-Chancellor, or in his absence a person duly appointed by him, shall convene a meeting of the Senate to be held not later than the tenth day following that on which the request was received.

Congregation

- 4. (1) Congregation shall consist of:
 - (a) the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor;

- (b) the full time members of the academic staff;
 - (c) the Registrar;
 - (d) the Bursar; and
 - (e) every member of the administrative and technical staff who holds a degree of any University recognized for the purpose of this Statute by the Vice-Chancellor, not being an honorary degree.
- (2) Subject to section 5 of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor shall be the Chairman at all meetings of congregation when he is present, and in his absence one of the Deputy Vice Chancellors appointed by him shall be the chairman at the meeting.
- (3) The quorum of congregation shall be one-third (or the nearest whole number to one-third) of the total number of members of congregation or fifty, whichever is less.
- (4) A certificate signed by the Vice-Chancellor specifying:
 - (a) the total number of members of Congregation for the purposes of any particular meeting or meetings of Congregation; or
 - (b) the names of the persons who are members of Congregation during a particular period; shall be conclusive evidence of that number or as the case may be of the names of those persons.
- (5) Subject to the provisions of this schedule, congregation may regulate its own procedure.
- (6) Congregation shall be entitled to express by resolution or otherwise its opinion on all matters affecting the interest and welfare of the University and shall have such other functions in addition to the function of electing a member of the Council, as may be provided by Statute or Regulations.

Convocation

5. (1) Convocation shall consist of:
- (a) the Officers of the University mentioned in Schedule 1 to this Bill;
 - (b) all teachers within the meaning of this Bill; and
 - (c) all other persons whose names are registered in accordance with paragraph (2) below.
- (2) A person shall be entitled to have his name registered as a member of convocation if he:
- (a) is either a graduate of the University or a person satisfying such requirements as may be prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and

- (b) applies for the registration of his name in the prescribed manner and pays the prescribed fee.
- (3) Regulations shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a register for the purpose of this paragraph and, subject to paragraph (3) below, may provide for the payment from time to time of further fees by persons whose names are on the register and for the removal from the register of the name of any person who fails to pay those fees.
- (4) The person responsible for maintaining the register shall, without the payment of any fees, ensure that the names of all persons who are for the time being members of convocation by virtue of paragraph (1) (a) or (b) of this paragraph are entered and retained on the register.
- (5) A person who reasonably claims that he is entitled to have his name on the register shall be entitled on demand to inspect the register, or a copy of the register at the principal offices of the University at all reasonable times.
- (6) The register shall, unless the contrary is proved, be sufficient evidence that any person named therein is, and that any person not named therein is not, a member of convocation; but for the purpose of ascertaining whether a particular person was such a member on a particular date, any entries in and deletions from the register made on or after that date shall be disregarded.
- (7) The quorum of convocation shall be fifty or one-third (or the whole number nearest to one-third) of the total number of members of convocation whichever is less.
- (8) Subject to section 5 of this Bill, the Chancellor shall be chairman at all meetings of convocation when he is present, and in his absence the Vice Chancellor shall be the chairman at the meeting.
- (9) Convocation shall have such functions, in addition to the function of appointing a member of the Council, as may be provided by statute.

Organisation of Faculties and Branches thereof

- 6. Each Faculty shall be divided into such number of branches as may be prescribed.
- 7.
 - (1) There shall Be established in respect of each Faculty, a Faculty Board, which, subject to the provisions of this Bill, and subject to the directions of the Vice-Chancellor, shall:
 - (a) regulate the teaching and study of, and the conduct of examinations connected with the subjects assigned to the faculty;
 - (b) deal with other matters assigned to it by Statute, by the Vice-Chancellor or by the Senate; and
 - (c) advice the Vice-Chancellor or Senate on any matter referred to it by the Vice-Chancellor or Senate.

- (2) Each Faculty Board shall consists of:
 - (a) the Vice-Chancellor;
 - (b) the persons severally in charge of the branches of the faculty;
 - (c) such number of the teachers assigned to the faculty and having the prescribed qualifications as the Board may determine; and
 - (d) such persons whether or not members of the University as the Board may determine with the general or special approval of Senate.
- (3) The quorum of the Board shall be eight members or one-quarter of the members of the Board for the time being whichever is greater.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of this statute and to any provision made by regulations in that behalf, the Board may regulate it own procedure.

The Dean of the Faculty

- 8. (1) The Dean of a faculty shall be a professor elected by the Faculty Board and such Dean shall hold office for a term of two years. He will be eligible for re-election for another term of two years after which he may not be elected again until two years have elapsed.
- (2) If there is no professor in a faculty, the Vice-Chancellor shall appoint an Acting Dean who shall not be below the rank of Senior Lecturer for the faculty, who will act for a period of one year in the first instance, renewable for another one year only.
- (3) In the absence of the Vice-Chancellor, the Dean shall be the chairman at all meetings of the Faculty Board when he is present and he shall be a member of all committees and other boards appointed by the faculty.
- (4) The Dean of a faculty shall exercise general superintendence over the academic and administrative affairs of the faculty and it shall be the function of the Dean to present to the convocation for the conferment of Degrees, persons who have qualified for the Degrees of the University at examinations held in the branches of learning for which responsibility is allocated to that faculty.
- (5) There shall be a committee to be known as the Committee of Deans which shall consist of all the Deans of the several faculties and that committee shall advise the Vice-Chancellor on all academic matters and on particular matters referred to the Committee by the Senate.
- (6) The Dean of a faculty may be removed from office for a good cause by the Faculty Board after a vote would have been taken at a meeting of the Board, and in the event of a vacancy occurring following the removal of the Dean, an Acting Dean may be appointed by the Vice- Chancellor provided that at the next faculty board meeting an election shall be held for a new Dean.

- (7) In this article, "good cause" has the same meaning as in section 17 (4) of this Bill.

Selection of Certain Principal and other key Officers

9. (1) When a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Registrar, Bursar, the University Librarian, Director of Works or Director of Health Services, a Selection Board shall be constituted by the Council and shall consist of:
- (i) the Pro-Chancellor;
 - (ii) the Vice-chancellor;
 - (iii) two members appointed by the Council, not being members of Senate; and
 - (iv) two members appointed by the Senate not being members of Council.
- (2) The Selection Board, after making such inquiries as it thinks fit, shall recommend a candidate to the Council for appointment to the vacant office, and after considering the recommendation of the Board the Council may make an appointment to that office.
- (3) A person appointed to the office of Director of Works or Director of Health Services shall hold office for such period and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment.

Creation of Academic Post

10. Recommendation for the creation of posts other than those mentioned in paragraph 9 of this Schedule shall be made by the Senate to the Council through the Finance and General purposes Committee.

Appointment of Academic Staff

11. Subject to this Bill and the Statutes derived from it, the filling of vacancies in academic posts (including newly created ones) shall be as prescribed from time to time by Statutes.

Appointment of Administrative and Technical Staff

12. (1) The administrative and technical staff of the University, other than those mentioned in paragraph 9 of this schedule shall be appointed by the Council on its behalf by the Vice-Chancellor or the Registrar in accordance with any delegation of powers made by the Council in that behalf.
- (2) In the case of administrative or technical staff that has close and important contacts with the academic staff, there shall be Senate participation in the process of selection (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State to make comprehensive provisions for its due management and administration (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State to Make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and Other Related Matters (HB.1014) (*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 Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka, Nkanu East, Enugu State to make comprehensive provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 669) and approved Clauses 1 - 32, the Schedules, 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.

- (iii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science and Technology, Eka-Midim, Akwa Ibom State and for Related matters (HB. 1157) (Committee of the Whole): Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science and Technology, Eka-Midim, Akwa Ibom State and for Related matters (HB. 1157)” (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 FEDERAL COLLEGE OF
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, EKA-MIDIM,
AKWA IBOM STATE TO PROVIDE FOR COURSES LEADING TO THE
AWARD OF DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES IN MEDICAL
LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER RELATED
COURSES; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 1157)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING
COUNCIL OF THE FEDERAL COLLEGE OF MEDICAL LABORATORY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, EKA-MIDIM, AKWA IBOM STATE

Clause 1: Establishment of the College of Medical Laboratory Science and Technology, Eka-Midim, Akwa bom State.

- (1) There is established the Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science and Technology, Eka-Midim, Akwa-Ibom State (in in this Bill referred to as "the College").
- (2) The College:
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (c) may hold, acquire and dispose of any property movable or immovable (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Composition of the College.

The College shall consist of:

- (a) the Governing Council;
- (b) the Academic Board;
- (c) the Congregation; and
- (d) the Convocation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3 Establishment and composition of the Governing Council.

- (1) There is established the Governing Council of the College (in this Bill referred to as "the Council").
- (2) The Council shall consist of:
 - (a) a chairman who shall be:
 - (i) a Fellow of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria, and
 - (ii) appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
 - (b) a representative each of the Federal Ministries of:

- (i) Health, and
 - (ii) Education;
 - (c) a representative of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria;
 - (d) two persons, at least one of whom shall be a woman, selected on their personal merit, based on their contributions either to the development of medical laboratory science or their special interest in medical science education;
 - (e) the Provost of the College; and
 - (f) a representative of the Academic Board of the College.
- (3) The supplementary provisions set out in the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Council and other matters contained in the Schedule (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4 Tenure of office of members of Council.

A member of the Council (other than an *ex-officio* member) shall hold office for a term of three years and subject to subsection (2), may be eligible for re-appointment for another term of three years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5 Resolution of appointment or removal from office.

- (1) A member of Council (other than an *ex-officio* member) may resign his appointment by notice in writing addressed to the Council.
- (2) The Minister may, in writing with the approval of the President, remove any member of the Council if he is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the College that the member concerned should continue in office (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 6: Remuneration.

A member of the Council (other than *ex-officio* member) shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as may be determined by the President (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART II — FUNCTIONS OF THE COLLEGE AND GOVERNING COUNCIL

Clause 7: Functions of the College.

The College shall:

- (a) provide courses of instruction, training and research in:
 - (i) medical laboratory science, and
 - (ii) such other fields of applied learning relevant to the needs of the development of Nigeria in the areas of medical laboratory science courses, and for research in the development and adaption of techniques as the Council may determine;
- (b) produce technical, professional and such other skilled personnel normally required for medical laboratory science;
- (c) arrange conferences, seminars and study groups relevant to the fields of learning specified in paragraph (a); and
- (d) perform such other functions as in the opinion of the Council may serve to promote the objectives of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: Functions of the Council.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Council shall be the governing body of the College and:
 - (a) shall be charged with the general control and management of the affairs of the College, in particular, the control of the property and finances; and
 - (b) may facilitate carrying out the activities of the College and promote its best interests.
- (2) The Council may acquire and hold such movable or immovable property as may be necessary or expedient for carrying into effect the provisions of this Bill and for the same purpose may sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise alienate any property so acquired.
- (3) The Council may enter into contracts as may be necessary or expedient for carrying into effect the provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Powers of the College.

The College shall have power to:

- (a) award diplomas and certificates for courses provided by it under section 7 of this Bill;
- (b) invest its funds in a manner and to such extent as it may deem necessary or expedient;
- (c) establish and maintain a library, containing such books, journals, records, reports and other publications and information systems as may be required for the performance of the functions conferred on the College by this Bill; and
- (d) accept gifts of land, money or other property upon such terms and conditions, as may be specified by the person or organisation making the gift, but the College shall not accept any gift if the terms and conditions attached are inconsistent with its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 10: Directions by the Minister.

The Minister may give the Council directions of a general character or relating to matters of policy with regard to the exercise by the Council of functions under this Bill and the Council shall comply with such directions (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART III — APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATION, TENURE, DUTIES, ETC.
OF PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF OF THE COLLEGE

Clause 11: Appointment of Provost of the College.

- (1) There shall be for the College a Provost (in this Bill referred to as "the Provost") who shall be:
 - (a) a Fellow of Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria;
 - (b) appointed by the Council from a list supplied to it by the Academic Board, of three persons of high academic standing, proven administrative ability and good character; and
 - (c) appointed on such terms and conditions of service as stipulated in his letter of appointment.
- (2) The Provost shall be the Chief Accounting and Administrative Officer of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Qualification for the post of Provost.

A person to be appointed Provost shall possess:

- (a) a Post-Graduate Degree in medical laboratory science with evidence of publications in the relevant fields;
- (b) appropriate professional qualifications in medical laboratory science and be registered with the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria; and
- (c) at least, 10 years cognate experience in the field of medical laboratory science (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 13: Duties of the Provost.

The Provost shall be responsible for the:

- (a) day-to-day administration of the College;
- (b) exercise of general authority over the staff of the College; and
- (c) discipline of the students in the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Tenure of office of the Provost.

The Provost shall hold office for a term of four years and may be re-appointed for another term of four years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Terms and conditions of office of the Provost.

The Provost shall hold office on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Minister as set out in his letter of appointment (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 16: Vacancy or office of Provost.

Where the office or the Provost is vacant, the Council shall:

- (a) advertise the vacancy in a reputable journal and widely read newspaper in Nigeria specifying:

- (i) the qualities of a person who may apply for the post, and
 - (ii) the terms and conditions of service applicable to the post, and thereafter, draw up a short list of suitable candidates for consideration;
- (b) set up a Joint Committee of the Council and the Academic Board consisting of:
 - (i) the Chairman of the Council, and
 - (ii) two members of the Council not being members of the Academic Board and not below the rank of Chief Lecturer,

to consider the candidates on the short list drawn up under paragraph (a) through an examination of their curriculum vitae and interaction with them and recommend the qualified candidates to the Council for its consideration (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 17: Registrar of the College.

- (1) There shall be a Registrar for the College who shall:
 - (a) be responsible to the Provost for the day-to-day administration of the College: and
 - (b) perform such other duties as the Council or the Provost may require him to do.
- (2) The Registrar shall be the Secretary to the Council, the Academic Board and any Committee of the Council and shall attend all the meetings of those bodies unless excused for good cause or reason by the Chairman of the Council.
- (3) Where the Registrar is absent for a meeting of the Council, the Chairman of the Council may, after consultation with the Provost, appoint a suitable person to act as secretary for any particular meeting of the Council.
- (4) The Secretary to the Council or a person appointed to act under subsection (3) shall not be entitled to vote on any question before the Council, or be counted towards a quorum unless such a person is so entitled as a member of the Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 18: Tenure of office of the Registrar.

- (1) The Registrar:
 - (a) shall hold office for a term of four years effective from the date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of his appointment; and

- (b) may be re-appointed for another term of four years and no more.
- (2) If, on the commencement of this Bill, the Registrar had held office:
 - (a) for four years or less, he shall be deemed to be serving his first term of office and may be re-appointed for another term of four years;
 - (b) for more than four years but less than eight years, he shall complete the maximum period of eight years and thereafter relinquish his post and be assigned other duties in the College; and
 - (c) for eight years or more, the Council may allow him to serve as Registrar for a further period of one year only and thereafter he shall relinquish his post and be assigned other duties in the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 19: Appointment of the Deputy Provosts.

- (1) There shall be for the College, the following two Deputy Provosts who shall assist the Provost in the performance of his functions:
 - (a) Deputy Provost I — Administration; and
 - (b) Deputy Provost II — Academics.
- (2) Each Deputy Provost shall be a person of high academic and moral standing and manifest administrative experience, and shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Provost.
- (3) The Council shall appoint the Deputy Provosts from among the Chief Lecturers in the College:
 - (a) from a list of three candidates, in order of preference, submitted by the Provost; or
 - (b) on the recommendation of the Selection Board constituted for the College.
- (4) The Selection Board referred to in subsection (3) (b) shall consist of:
 - (a) the Chairman of the Council;
 - (b) the Provost;
 - (c) two members of the Council not being members of the Academic Board; and

- (d) two members of the Academic Board,

which may make inquires as it deems fit before making the recommendation required under subsection (3) (b).
- (5) The Deputy Provosts shall:
 - (a) assist the Provost in the performance of his functions;
 - (b) act (in the case of the Deputy Provost I) in the place of the Provost when the office of the Provost is vacant or if the Provost is, for any reason, absent or unable to perform his functions as Provost; and
 - (c) perform such other functions as the Provost or the Council may assign to them.
- (6) The Deputy Provost:
 - (a) shall hold office for a term of four years effective from the date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and
 - (b) may be re-appointed for another term of four years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 20: Other Principal Officers of the College.

- (1) There shall be for the College the following other Principal Officers in addition to the Registrar:
 - (a) the Bursar;
 - (b) the College Librarian;
 - (c) the Director of Works; and
 - (d) the Director of Medical and Health Services,

who shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Selection Board constituted under section 19 (3) (b) of this Bill.
- (2) The Bursar shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the College and shall be responsible to the Provost for the day-to-day administration and control of the financial affairs of the College.
- (3) The College Librarian shall be responsible to the Provost for the administration of the College Library and the co-ordination of the library services in the teaching units of the College.

- (4) The Director of Works shall be responsible to the Provost for the maintenance of the College buildings, minor works, transport and supervision of the College's construction projects.
- (5) The Director of Medical and Health Services shall be responsible to the Provost for the supervision of the medical and health services and facilities of the College.
- (6) The Principal Officers mentioned in subsection (1):
 - (a) shall hold office for a term of four years in the first instance and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in their letters of appointment; and
 - (b) may be re-appointed for another term of four years and no more.
- (7) Any question as to the scope of the responsibilities of the Principal Officers shall be determined by the Provost.
- (8) If on the commencement of this Bill, the Bursar, Librarian, Director of Works or Director of Medical and Health Services had held office for:
 - (a) four years or less, he shall be deemed to be serving his first term of office and may be re-appointed for another term of four years;
 - (b) more than four years but less than eight years, he shall complete the maximum period of eight years and thereafter relinquish his post and be assigned other duties in the College;
 - (c) eight years or more, he shall relinquish his post and be assigned to other duties in the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 21: Resignation of appointment by Principal Officers.

A principal officer may resign his appointment:

- (a) in the case of the Provost, by notice in writing to the Council and the Council shall forward it to the President; and
- (b) in any other case, by notice in writing to the Provost who shall forward it to the Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 22: Appointment of other employees of the College.

- (1) The Council may appoint such other persons to be staff of the College as the

Council may determine, to assist the Provost and the Principal Officers of the College in the performance of their functions under this Bill.

- (2) The power to appoint all other staff of the College apart from the Provost and the Principal Officers shall be exercised:
 - (a) in the case of a senior staff, by the Council on the recommendation of the Senior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee set up under paragraph 2 (2) (a) of the Schedule to this Bill; and
 - (b) in the case of a junior staff, by the Provost on the recommendation of the Junior. Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee set up under paragraph 2 (2) (b) of the Schedule to this Bill.
- (3) The remuneration of staff of the College shall be determined by the Council with the approval of the Minister (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 23: Staff regulations and conditions of service.

- (1) The Council may, subject to the provisions of this Bill, make staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the staff of the College and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such regulations may provide for:
 - (a) the appointment, promotion and discipline of staff of the College;
 - (b) appeals by staff against dismissal or other disciplinary measures, and until such regulations are made, any instrument relating to the conditions of service of public officers in the university system shall be applicable, with such modifications as may be necessary, to staff of the College; and
 - (c) the rates of remuneration, scales of salary, contract conditions, super-annuations, arrangements and other conditions of service of members of the academic, administrative and technical staff as are determined by the Council.
- (2) The Provost and other academic staff shall retire on attainment of 65 years of age, while non-academic staff shall retire on attainment of 60 years of age as applicable to other training or research institutions.
- (3) Staff regulations made under subsection (1) shall not have effect until approved by the Minister and when so approved, the regulations need not be published in the Federal Government Gazette but the Council shall cause them to be brought to the notice of all affected persons in such manner as it may determine (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 24: Establishment of Academic Board.

- (1) There shall be established for the College the Academic Board which shall consist of:
 - (a) the Provost as the Chairman;
 - (b) the Deputy Provosts;
 - (c) all Heads of Departments;
 - (d) the Librarian; and
 - (e) not more than two members of the academic staff other than Heads of Departments who may be appointed by the Academic Board.
- (2) The Academic Board shall be responsible for:
 - (a) the direction and management of academic matters of the College including the regulation of admission of students, the award of certificates in medical laboratory Science and Technology, based on agreed quota by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and Medical Laboratory Science of Nigeria (MLSCN), scholarships, prizes and other academic distinctions;
 - (b) presenting to the Council periodic reports on such academic matters as the Academic Board may deem fit or as the Council may direct; and
 - (c) the performance of any other functions which the Council may delegate to it (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 25: Removal of the Provost from office.

Where it appears to the Council that the Provost should be removed from office on the grounds of:

- (a) misconduct;
- (b) conviction from a court of competent jurisdiction (or panel of inquiry if not challenged in court); or
- (c) inability to perform the functions of his office,

the Council shall make a recommendation to that effect to the President and if the President, after making inquiries as he considers necessary, approves the recommendation, the President shall, in writing, declare the office of the Provost vacant (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 26: Removal of staff of the College from office.

- (1) Where it appears to the Council that there are reasons for believing that any person employed as a member of the academic, administrative or technical staff of the College other than the Provost, should be removed from office on the grounds of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council shall:
 - (a) give notice of those reasons to the person in question;
 - (b) afford him an opportunity to make representations in person on the matter to the Council; and
 - (c) if he or any three members of the Council so request within the period of one month beginning with the date of the notice, make arrangements:
 - (i) if he is an academic staff: for a joint committee of the Council and the Academic Board to investigate the matter and report to the Council,
 - (ii) for a committee of the Council to investigate the matter, where it relates to any other member of staff of the College and report to the Council, and
 - (iii) for the person in question to be afforded an opportunity of appearing and making presentations, before the Investigating Committee set up for that purpose with respect to the matter,and if the Council, after considering the report of the Investigating Committee, is satisfied that the person in question should be removed from office, the Council may remove him by an instrument in writing signed on the directions of the Council.
- (2) The Provost may, in the case of misconduct by a member of staff which, in the opinion of the Provost, is prejudicial to the interests of the College suspend the member of staff and the suspension shall be reported to the Council.
- (3) A member of staff may be suspended from office for good cause, or his appointment may be terminated by the Council, and for the purpose of this subsection, "good cause" means:
 - (a) any physical or mental incapacity which the Council, after obtaining advice from a panel of two medical experts constituted by the Council, considers to be such as to tender the person concerned unfit for the performance of the functions of his office;
 - (b) any physical or mental incapacity which the Council, after obtaining

- medical advice from a panel of two medical experts constituted by the Council, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office;
- (c) conduct of a scandalous or disgraceful nature which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office; or
 - (d) conduct which the Council considers to be such as to constitute failure or inability of the person concerned to discharge the functions of his office or to comply with the terms and conditions of service.
- (4) Any person suspended under subsection (2) or (3), shall be placed on half pay and the Council shall, before the expiration of three months after the date of the suspension, consider the case against that person and come to a decision as to whether to:
- (a) continue the person's suspension and if so on what terms (including the proportion of the emoluments to be paid to him);
 - (b) reinstate the person, in which case the Council shall restore his full emoluments to him with effect from the date of suspension;
 - (c) terminate the appointment of the person in question, in which case the person, shall not be entitled to the proportion of his emoluments withheld during the period of suspension; and
 - (d) take lesser disciplinary action against the person (including the restoration of such proportion of his emoluments that might have been withheld), and in any case where the Council, under this section, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against a person, the Council shall, before the expiration of a period of three months from such decision, come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning any such person.
- (5) The person by whom an instrument of removal is signed under subsection (1) shall use his best endeavours to cause a copy of the instrument to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates.
- (6) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Council from making such regulations for the discipline of other categories of staff and workers of the school as it may deem fit (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART IV — MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Clause 27: Discipline of students.

- (1) The Council may make rules providing for the Provost to conduct enquiries into alleged acts of misconduct (including lack of discipline) by students and such rules may make different provisions for different circumstances.
- (2) The rules shall provide for the procedure and rules of evidence to be followed at enquiries under this section.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of this section, where it appears to the Provost that any student of the College is guilty of misconduct, the Provost may, without prejudice to any other disciplinary powers conferred on him by this Bill or regulations made under this Bill, direct that:
 - (a) the student shall not, during the period specified in the direction, participate in the activities of the College or make use of the facilities of the College as he may specify;
 - (b) the activities of the students shall during the period as may be specified in the direction, be restricted in the manner specified:
 - (c) the student be suspended for such period as may be specified in the direction: or
 - (d) the student be expelled from the College.
- (4) Where the post of the Provost is vacant or where the Provost refuses to apply any disciplinary measures, the Council may either directly or through some other staff apply such disciplinary actions as are specified in subsection (1) to any student of the College who is considered guilty of misconduct.
- (5) Where a direction is given under subsection (3) (c) or (d) in respect of any student, the student may, within a period of twenty one days from the date of the letter communicating the decision to him appeal against the direction to the Council, and where such an appeal is brought, the Council shall, after causing an inquiry to be made in the matter as the Council considers just, either confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in the manner the Council may deem fit.
- (6) The fact that an appeal from a direction is pending under subsection (5) shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending.
- (7) The Provost may delegate his powers under this section to a disciplinary committee of such members of the College as he may nominate.
- (8) Nothing in this section shall be construed as terminating a student's activity in the College except on the grounds of misconduct.
- (9) The direction under subsection (3) (a) may be combined with a direction under subsection (3) (b).

- (10) In all cases under this section, the decision of the Governing Council shall be final (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 28: Financial provisions.

- (1) The Council shall keep proper records and accounts of its activities and shall cause to be prepared not later than 1st October in each financial year an estimate of its revenue and expenditure for the ensuing financial year and when prepared, the estimates shall be submitted to the Minister for approval.
- (2) At the end of each financial year but not later than 30th June, the Council shall cause to be prepared a statement of its income and expenditure during the previous financial year.
- (3) The statement referred to in subsection (2) shall, when certified by the Provost, be audited by a firm of auditors appointed by the Council from a list of four firms in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation and shall be published in the annual report of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 29: Establishment of Fund for the College.

- (1) The College shall establish and maintain a fund (the Fund) from which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the College in the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) There shall be paid into the Fund:
- (a) such sums as may be granted to the College by the Federal Government of Nigeria;
 - (b) fees charged and payable to the College by the students;
 - (c) any other amount charged or dues recoverable by the College;
 - (d) revenue accruing to the College by way of subvention, grants-in-aid, endowment or otherwise;
 - (e) interest on investments; and
 - (f) donations and legacies accruing to the College from any source, for the general or special purpose of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 30: Donations for particular purposes.

- (1) Donations of money to be applied to any particular purpose shall be placed to the credit of a Special Reserve Account approved by the Council until such time as they may be expended in fulfilment of such purpose,
- (2) The Council is not obliged to accept a donation of land money and other property for a particular purpose if the terms and conditions are contrary to the functions of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 31: Payment into bank.

All sums of money received on account of the College shall be paid into the bank as may be approved for the credit of the College's general current or deposit account (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 32: Annual report.

The Council shall, on or before 31st December in each year, prepare and submit to the President through the Minister, a report of its activities during the preceding financial year and shall include in the report, the audited accounts of the College in respect of that financial year and the auditor's comments on the account (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 33: Power to make Regulations.

- (1) The Council may make Regulations relating to any matter within its competence under this Bill other than matters for which provision is to be made by standing orders under paragraph 5 of the Schedule to this Bill.
- (2) All Regulations shall come into force when sealed with the seal of the Council unless some other date for their commencement is prescribed.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) shall make it obligatory for the Council to publish any of the Regulations in the Federal Government Gazette but the Council shall bring such Regulations to the notice of all affected persons (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 34: Exclusion or discrimination on account of race, religion.

- (1) No person shall be:
 - (a) required to satisfy requirements as to race (including ethnic grouping), sex, place of birth, family origin, religious or political persuasion as a condition for:

- (i) becoming or continuing to be a student at the College,
 - (ii) being a holder of any certificate of the College or any appointment or employment at the College, or
 - (iii) being a member of anybody established under this Bill, and
 - (b) subjected to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in relation to the College by reference to any of the matters mentioned in this subsection.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the College from imposing any disability or restriction on any person where such person wilfully refuses or fails on grounds of religious belief to undertake any duty generally and uniformly imposed on all persons or any group of them which duty, having regard to its nature and the special circumstance pertaining to it, is in the opinion of the College, reasonably justifiable in the national interest (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 35: Interpretation.

In this Bill:

"Academic Board" means the board established under section 24 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Junior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee" means a body by that name mentioned under paragraph 2 (2) (b) of the Schedule to this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Junior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to Health (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Registrar" means the Registrar of the College appointed under section 17 (1); and (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Senior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee" means a body by that name mentioned under paragraph 2 (2) (a) of the Schedule to this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Senior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

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

Clause 36: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science and Technology, Eka-Midim, Akwa-Ibom State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SCHEDULE

Sections 3 (3), 22 (2) (a) and (b) and 33 (1)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

1. The Council may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership or the absence of any member or that a person not entitled to do so took part in its proceedings.

Committees

2. (1) The Council may set up one or more committees to which it may delegate any of its functions.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, the Council shall set up the following committees:
 - (a) the Senior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee which shall:
 - (i) consist of a chairman and four members who shall be appointed by the Council, and four other members who shall be appointed by the Provost from members of the senior staff of the College,
 - (ii) be charged with the responsibility of making recommendations to the Council on the appointment and promotion of the academic and senior staff of the College,
 - (iii) have a quorum office members, and
 - (iv) be chaired by the Chairman but if the Chairman of the Committee is absent from any meeting of the Committee, the members present shall elect one of them to act as Chairman for that particular meeting;

- (b) the Junior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee which shall consist of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the Provost and shall have the powers set out in section 22 (2) (b) of this Bill.
- (c) the Committee on Students' Affairs Which shall consist of:
 - (i) a chairman who shall be appointed by the Provost from among the senior staff of the College,
 - (ii) one member of the Council,
 - (iii) two members of the academic staff of the College, and
 - (iv) four students of the College.
- (3) The Committee on Student's Affairs shall be charged with the duty of considering any:
 - (a) matter which relates to the welfare of students;
 - (b) other matter referred to it by either the Council or students of the College; and
 - (c) matter that the students refer to the Council which shall be referred to the Committee on Students' Affairs in the first instance.
- (4) No decision of a committee shall have effect unless it is confirmed by the Council.

Proceedings of the Council

- 3.
 - (1) The Council shall meet for the conduct of business at such times as the Chairman of the Council may appoint but the meetings of the Council shall hold at least twice in a year.
 - (2) The Chairman of the Council may at any time and shall at the request in writing of not less than five members of the Council, summon a meeting of the Council.
 - (3) Particulars of the business to be transacted by the Council shall be circulated to members with the notice of the meeting at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.
- 4.
 - (1) Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, it may co-opt the person as a member for a meeting whether or not expressly convened for the purpose of considering the particular matter but no co-opted member is entitled to vote or considered as part of the quorum.
 - (2) Every question put before the Council at a meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting.
 - (3) Seven members shall form a quorum at any meeting of the Council.
 - (4) The Chairman shall, at any meeting of the Council, have a vote and in the case of an equality of votes, may cast a deciding vote.

5. The Council may make standing orders with respect to holding meetings, the nature of notices to be given, the proceedings there upon, the keeping of minutes of such proceedings and the custody and production for inspection of such minutes.
6. Where the Chairman of the Council is absent from a meeting of the Council, the members present shall elect one of their members to act as Chairman for the purpose of that meeting.

Miscellaneous

7. Any contract or instrument, which if entered into by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal, may in like manner be entered into or executed on behalf of the Council by any person generally or specifically authorised by it for that purpose.
8.
 - (1) The Common Seal of the Council shall not be used or affixed to any document except in pursuance of a resolution duly passed at a properly constituted meeting of the Council and recorded in the minutes of such meeting.
 - (2) The affixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman of the Council or another member authorised generally or specifically by the Council to act for that purpose.
 - (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Council shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.
9. Any member of the Council or a committee of the Council who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Council or its committee shall disclose his interest to the Council and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science and Technology, Eka-Midim, Akwa-Ibom State to provide for courses leading to the award of diplomas and certificates in medical laboratory technology (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science and Technology, Eka-Midim, Akwa Ibom State to Provide for Courses Leading to the Award of Diplomas and Certificates in Medical Laboratory Technology and Other Related Courses; and for Related Matters (HB. 1157) (*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 Establish Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science and Technology, Eka-Midim, Akwa Ibom State and for Related matters (HB. 1157) and approved Clauses 1 - 36, 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.

- (iv) ***A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State and for Related Matters (HB. 1386) (Committee of the Whole):***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State and for Related Matters (HB. 1386)” (*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 AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES ACT TO ESTABLISH FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, IGBOHO, OYO STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.1386)

Clause 1: Amendment of the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2024.

The Federal Medical Centres Act, 2024 (hereinafter called "the Principal Act" is amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Amendment of the Second Schedule.

The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new item "3"

"Federal Medical Centre, Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2024 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State and for Related Matters (HB. 1386) (*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 Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State and for Related Matters (HB. 1386) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, 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.

- (v) ***A Bill for an Act to Provide Establishment of Federal Institute of Fisheries Research, Ogidigben, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 822) (Committee of the Whole):***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide Establishment of Federal Institute of Fisheries Research, Ogidigben, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 822)” (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 FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES RESEARCH, OGIDIGBEN, Warri South-West, Delta State, FOR FISHERY RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND COOPERATIVE TRAINING IN NIGERIA AND TO MAKE COMPREHENSIVE PROVISIONS FOR DUE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL INSTITUTE
OF FISHERIES RESEARCH, OGIDIGBEN, DELTA STATE

Clause 1: Establishment of the Federal Institute of Fisheries Research.

- (1) There is established the Federal Institute of Fisheries Research, Ogidigben, and Delta State (in this Bill to as "the Institute").
- (2) The Institute:
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal which shall be kept in such custody as the Institute may authorize;
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (c) may hold, acquire and dispose of any property, moveable or immovable, in carrying out its mandate.
- (3) The Headquarters of the Institute shall be domiciled in Ogidigben, Warri South-West, Delta State (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Functions of the Institute.

- (1) The broad functions of the Institute shall be:
 - (a) research, experimentation, sample application and patenting;
 - (b) education and training by the Colleges;
 - (c) innovation and technology dissemination through farming systems and extension services;
 - (d) the improvement of the genetic resources of fishery and the ecosystem for economic development;
 - (e) the improvement of aquatic practices relating to new species of fishes of economic importance;
 - (f) the mechanization and improvement of the methods of cultivating, harvesting, processing, domestication and biotechnological mass production of fishes and seafood stocks of economic importance;
 - (g) research into the utilization strategies of fish products, improvement of same, inclusive of fish and processed products;
 - (h) studying the ecology of pests and diseases of fishes and their control;
 - (i) research into the development of agro-fishery systems for the integration of fishes of economic importance into farming systems in different ecological zones and its socio-economic effects on the rural populations;

- (j) fishery education and training to facilitate entrepreneurial skills and capacity building for persons in the business of fishing;
- (k) fishery extension and dissemination;
- (l) research into the:
 - (i) bio diversity of Nigerian fishes in relation to its flora and fauna,
 - (ii) different suitable bio diversity and appropriate methods of control of ecological and environmental problems of the country with respect to oil pollution, soil erosion, including the conservation, protection and management of the coastal mangrove, watershed and sand-dunes, and
 - (iii) appropriate application of remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS) for climate change monitoring and adaptation, as well as aqua-cultural studies;
- (m) making suitable arrangements for the application of the results of the research work under paragraph (l) (i) by the Federal and State Ministries, Agencies and the private sector for the economic development of Nigeria;
- (n) co-operating with relevant Nigerian and international Universities, Research Institutes and other institutions in the mobilization of the country's research potential on Fishery for the task of national development and dissemination of research findings on the issues relating to Fishery for the use of policy makers at all levels;
- (o) providing training in the use of modern fishing craft, nets gear and other equipment intended for use in fishing;
- (p) providing training on the dangers of using explosive substances, noxious or poisonous matter or the use of electricity in fishing;
- (q) providing cooperative training for persons engaged in the business of fishing on developing fishing clusters;
- (r) training manpower for fish industry in Nigeria on methods of fish production, cultivation, processing and preservation.
- (s) entering into all professional transaction that will enhance proper performance of its functions (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Powers of the Institute.

- (1) The Institute may, with the approval of its supervising Ministry or Board, enter into association or agreement with the competent authorities of any University or other institution of higher learning or recognized international institutions for the purpose of promoting or furthering mutual co-operation in the field of scientific research in respect of which the Board has responsibility under this Bill.
- (2) The Institute may, at the written request of any government agency, local government authority or private organization, train laboratory, field ecology extension and other categories or descriptions of workers relative to their specified fields of research.
- (3) Without prejudice to its research functions, the Institute may produce improved seedlings and other planting materials as part of its research and experimental programs for use of farmers in different ecological zones of the Federation.
- (4) The Institute shall, when so requested by the Federal Government, government agencies or any of the State or Local Government authorities or any authorized body, provide information or give advice relating to their specified fields of research (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Governing Board of the Institute.

- (1) There shall be for the Institute, a governing body (in this Bill referred to as "the Board" charged with the administration of government policies.
- (2) The Board shall be established by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the recommendation of the supervising Minister and shall be evenly distributed among the six geo-political zones of the Federation.
- (3) The Board shall consist of:
 - (a) a Chairman, knowledgeable in Fishery or related discipline;
 - (b) a representative of the Ecological Funds office;
 - (c) a representative of the supervising Ministry charged with the supervision of fishery matters;
 - (d) two other members nominated by the President; and
 - (e) the Director-General of the Institute, who shall be the Secretary to the Board.
- (4) With the exception of the Director-General, membership of the Board shall be on part-time basis.

- (5) A member of the Board may resign his appointment by a letter addressed to the President, through the Minister, and, if accepted, the resignation shall take effect from the date the President receives the letter of resignation.
- (6) Members of the Board shall, unless otherwise provided, hold office for a term of four (4) years and may be eligible for another term of four (4) years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Powers of the Board.

- (1) The Board shall have the powers to:
 - (a) perform all functions conferred on the Institute by this Bill;
 - (b) formulate policies for the Institute;
 - (c) make rules to govern the procedures of its meetings; and
 - (d) make recommendations to the Minister on the establishment of specialized colleges in other parts of the country as the need arises.
- (2) The provision of the Schedule to this Bill shall apply with respect to the proceedings Schedule of the Board (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 6: The Director-General of the Institute.

- (1) The President shall, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint the Director-General of the Institute.
- (2) The Director-General shall be —
 - (a) a Research Professor with vast experience in Fishery or related discipline;
 - (b) charged with the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Institute in accordance with such instructions as may be given to him by the Minister, through the Board of the Institute;
 - (c) the Accounting Officer of the Institute.
- (3) The Director-General of the Institute shall hold office for a term of four (4) years and may be eligible for re-appointment for another term of four (4) years and no more.
- (4) The Board may appoint such other persons as employees of the Institute either

by way of transfer or secondment from any of the public service or any University in the Federation or otherwise as it considers necessary.

- (5) The Institute shall operate research professorial cadre system for researchers or lecturers and directorate equivalent system for support services staff such as:
- (a) the Institute's Secretary for Administrative Cadre System;
 - (b) the Institute's Librarians for Library Cadre System;
 - (c) the Institute's Accountant for the Account and Finance Cadre System;
 - (d) the Institute's Auditor for the Audit Cadre System; and
 - (e) the Head of Procurement for the Procurement Cadre System.
- (6) The remuneration, conditions of service and tenure of office of the employees of the Institute shall be determined by the National Income, Salaries and Wages Commission and the Federal Civil Service Commission (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: The Provost.

- (1) The Minister shall, on the recommendation of the Board, appoint a Provost for each of the Colleges of the Institute.
- (2) The Provost shall:
- (a) be a PhD. holder and shall possess a minimum experience as a Senior Lecturer in the field of Fishery or related disciplines;
 - (b) be charged with the day-to-day management of the College in accordance with such instructions as may be given to him by the Board or Director-General of the Institute;
 - (c) design research programs, the formulation and implementation of research proposals relevant to the institute;
 - (d) coordinate the training programs or research and provisions of intellectual leadership;
 - (e) be responsible for the collation and interpretation of research data and the preparation of scientific reports;
 - (f) prepare annual and quarterly reports in respect of his College;
 - (g) be responsible for College development programs and planning; and

- (h) hold office for a non-renewable term of five years.
- (3) The Board shall recommend the removal of the Provost to the Minister if he is found incompetent or incapacitated (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART III — PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

Clause 8: Professional discipline.

Every staff shall be well acquainted with the disciplinary procedure entrenched in the Public Service Rules, and any other regulations as may be made by the Board (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Penalties for unprofessional conduct.

Where a staff —

- (a) is judged to be guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect,
- (b) is found to have contravened the provisions of the Public Service Rules, or
- (c) contravenes directives issued as government circulars from the supervising Ministry, Federal Civil Service Commission, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Office of the Head of Service and other Federal Government offices with authority to issue circulars and directives, the staff shall be subjected to disciplinary measures in accordance with the regulations contained in the Public Service Rules (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Amendment Proposed:

In subclause (a), immediately after the words “guilty of”, *leave out* the word “infamous”, and *insert* the word “misconduct” (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment made — Agreed to.

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

PART III — MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Clause 10: Provision of Library.

The Institute shall —

- (a) provide and maintain a Library comprising of books and publications for the advancement of the knowledge of Fishery and such other books and publications the Board may deem necessary for that purpose; and

- (b) encourage research into Fishery and allied subjects to the extent that the Board may consider necessary (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Rules and Regulations.

- (1) The Minister shall have powers to make rules and regulations under this Bill.
- (2) The regulation made under this Bill shall be published in the Federal Government Gazette as soon as they are made.
- (3) The rules made for the purpose of this Bill (other than rules made by the Minister) shall:
 - (a) be subject to confirmation by the Institute at its next annual meeting or at any special meeting of the Institute convened for the purpose; and
 - (b) if not confirmed, cease to have effect on the day after the date of the confirmation but without prejudice to anything done in pursuance or intended pursuance of such rules (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Offences.

- (1) If a staff, for the purpose of procuring the registration of any name, qualification or other matter:
 - (a) makes a statement which he believes to be false in a particular matter, or
 - (b) recklessly makes a statement which is false in a particular matter, the staff commits an offence.
- (2) If a member or any other person employed by or on behalf of the Institute willfully makes any falsification on any matter, the member or person commits an offence.
- (3) Any staff who commits an offence under this section shall, after being found guilty by a properly constituted Disciplinary Committee, be subjected to relevant punishment stipulated under the Public Service Rule (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART IV — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 13: Funds of the Institute.

- (1) The Institute shall establish and maintain a fund into which shall be paid:
 - (a) annual subvention from the Federal Government;
 - (b) monetary gifts, research grants or aids and contribution from national and international organisations;
 - (c) internally generated revenue from research breakthroughs, and products and services provided by the Institute;
 - (d) the internally generated revenue which shall be shared at the ratio of 75 % - 25 % for the Federal Government and the Institute, respectively;
 - (e) the 25 % revenue for the Institute which shall be expended on areas that will promote the Institutes mandate;
 - (f) loans and other solicited funds received by the Institute; and
 - (g) all other sums accruing to the Institute from time to time.
- (2) The Institute shall prepare a detailed annual budget of its programmes and activities for the approval of the Board and the Minister.
- (3) The Institute shall apply the funds at its disposal:
 - (a) to meet the cost of administration of the Institute and its Colleges;
 - (b) for the payment of fees, allowances and benefits of members of the Board;
 - (c) for the payment of functions of the Institute under this Bill or any matter connected to its function;
 - (d) to meet any capital expenditure of the Institute;
 - (e) to pay salaries, allowances and benefits of officers and other employees of the Institute;
 - (f) to such reasonable travelling and subsistence allowances of the Board, Director-General and other members of staff in respect of time spent on the duties of the Institute as may be determined by the Board and other guidelines of the Institute;
 - (g) to maintain any property acquired by or vested in the Institute; and
 - (h) to implement all or any of the expenditure of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Bank accounts of the Institute.

- (1) The Institute shall maintain a bank account in its name in banks approved by the Board.
- (2) Any fund of the Institute in excess of an impress to be determined by the Board shall be lodged into the Institute's account (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Power to borrow.

- (1) The Institute may, with the consent of the Minister and on the recommendation of the Board, borrow by way of loan, a specified amount as it may require for meeting its obligations and performing its functions under this Bill.
- (2) No consent or authority shall be required under subsection (1), if the sum or the aggregate of the sums involved at any time does not exceed such amount as may be, for the time being, specified in relation to the Institute by the Federal Government (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 16: Annual estimates, accounts and audit.

- (1) The Institute shall prepare, not later than September, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Institute during the next succeeding year and, when prepared, they shall be submitted to the Minister for approval prior to the final submission at the National Assembly.
- (2) The Institute shall keep proper books of records and accounts which shall be audited by auditors approved by the Board from the list of auditors in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 17: Annual report.

The Institute shall, not later than six months after the end of each year, submit to the National Assembly, through the Minister, a report on the activities and the administration of the Institute and its colleges during the immediately preceding year and shall include in the report, the audited accounts of the Institute and its Colleges and the report of the Auditor on the accounts (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 18: Indemnity of members.

No suit, prosecution or legal proceedings shall lie against any officer, member or

employee of the Institute for anything which is done in good faith or is intended to be done under this Bill, rules or regulations made under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 19: Legal proceedings and services of summons.

- (1) A suit shall not be commenced against the Institute before the expiration of a period of one month, after written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Institute by the intending plaintiff or claimant or his counsel, and the notice shall clearly state the:
 - (a) cause of action;
 - (b) particulars of the claim;
 - (c) name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff or claimant; and
 - (d) relief which he claims.
- (2) The notice referred to in subsection (1) of this section and any summons, notice or other document required or authorized to be served on the Institute under the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment or law may be served by —
 - (a) delivering the documents to the office of the Director-General; or
 - (b) sending it by registered post addressed to the Director-General at the Headquarters of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 20: Seal of the Institute.

The seal of the Institute shall not be affixed on any instrument except with the authorization of the Director-General (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 21: Interpretation.

In this Bill:

"Board" means the Board established as the governing body of the Institute under section 4 (2) of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Director-General" means the Director-General appointed under section 6 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Director-General" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Institute" means the Federal Institute of Fisheries Research established under section 1(1) of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Colleges" means the Colleges of the Institute established under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Member" means member of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister charged with the responsibility for matters relating to Fishery Research (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Supervising Ministry" means the Ministry charged with the responsibility for matters relating to Fishery Research (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

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

Clause 22: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Institute of Fisheries Research (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING
TO THE BOARD AND THE INSTITUTE

Qualifications and Tenure of Office of members

1. (1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, a member of the Board shall hold office from the effective date of the instrument of his appointment.
- (2) A member of the Institute who ceases to be a member shall, if he is also a member of the Board, cease to hold office on the Board.

Powers of the Board

2. The Board shall have powers to do anything which, in its opinion, is calculated to facilitate the carrying-on of the activities of the Institute under this Bill.

Proceedings of the Board

3. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Board may, in the name of the Institute, make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the Institute or Board and, in the exercise of its powers under this Bill, may set up committees in the general interest of the Institute and make standing orders for the Committees.
- (2) Standing orders shall provide that decisions shall be taken by a majority of the members, and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman has a second or casting vote.
- (3) Standing orders made for a committee shall provide that the committee is to report back to the Board on any matter not within its competence to decide.
4. The quorum of the Board shall be four and the quorum of a committee of the Board shall be fixed by the Board.

Committees

5. The Board shall convene the annual farming systems meeting of the Institute every year.
- (1) The Institute may set up one or more standing or ad-hoc committees to carry out, on its behalf, such of its functions as it may determine.
- (2) A Committee set up under this paragraph shall consist of such number of Persons as may be determined by the Institute and a person, other than a member of the Institute shall hold office in the Committee in accordance with terms of his appointment.
- (3) A decision of a Committee of the Institute shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Institute.

Meetings of the Board

6. (1) The Board shall meet at least twice in any financial year, and subject to the provisions of any standing order of the Board, the Board shall meet at other times as it is summoned by the Chairman, and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice in writing given to him by at least four other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within seven (7) days from the date on which notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside. In his absence, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of them to preside at that meeting.
- (3) Where the Board decides to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt him as a member for such period as the Board deems fit, but a person who is a member by virtue of this sub-paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum.
- (4) Notwithstanding anything in the provisions of this paragraph, the first meeting of the Board shall be convened by the Minister who may give such directions as he deems fit as to the procedure which shall be followed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

7. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Institute shall be authenticated by the Director-General of the Institute or an officer authorized by the Institute to act in his place for this purpose.
 - (2) A contract or instrument, which if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Institute or Board, as the case may require, by any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Board.
 - (3) A document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Institute shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.
8. The validity of any proceeding of the Institute, Board or Committee of the Board shall not be affected by —
 - (a) any vacancy in the membership;
 - (b) any defect in the appointment of a member of the Institute or Board; or
 - (c) reason that a person not so entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
 9. A member of the Institute or Board and any person holding office on a Committee of the Board who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement being entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or any Committee, shall declare and disclose his interest in such contract or arrangement to the Board and shall be disqualified to vote on any question relating to such contract or arrangement (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Federal Institute of Fisheries Research for Fishery research, education and cooperative training in Nigeria and to make comprehensive provisions for due management and administration (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Institute of Fisheries Research, Ogidigben, Warri South-West, Delta State, for Fishery Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria and to Make Comprehensive Provisions for Due Management and Administration; and for Related Matters (HB. 822) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo 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 Provide Establishment of Federal Institute of Fisheries Research, Ogidigben, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 822) and approved Clauses 1 - 8, approved Clause 9 as amended, approved Clause 10 - 22 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.

(vi) Committee on Specialty Healthcare:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Specialty Healthcare on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Establishment of Orthopaedic Hospital, Billiri, Gombe State to be affiliated to Federal Teaching Hospital, Gombe and for Related Matters (HB.1277)” (*Hon. Alex Egbona — Yakurr/Abi 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)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITALS
MANAGEMENT BOARD ACT, CAP. O10, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION
OF NIGERIA, 2004 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL, BILLIRI, GOMBE STATE UNDER THE
CONTROL OF THE ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT

BOARD AND AFFILIATED TO FEDERAL TEACHING HOSPITAL,
GOMBE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 1277)

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 1: Amendment of Cap. O10, LFN, 2004.

The Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Egbona Alex Egbona — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 2: Amendment of the Second Schedule

The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting after paragraph 6 a new paragraph "7" to read as follows:

"7. The Orthopaedic Hospital, Billiri, Gombe State" (*Hon. Egbona Alex Egbona — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 3: Amendment of the Third Schedule.

The Third Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting after paragraph 6, a new paragraph "7" to read:

"7. The Orthopaedic Hospital Billiri, Gombe State." Affiliated Hospital, Federal Teaching Hospital, Gombe State (*Hon. Egbona Alex Egbona — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 4: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Egbona Alex Egbona — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the Orthopaedic Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for the establishment of the Orthopaedic Hospital, Billiri, Gombe State under the control of the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board and affiliated to the Federal Teaching Hospital Gombe to provide specialised orthopaedic treatment and medical services (*Hon. Egbona Alex Egbona — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Establishment of the Orthopaedic Hospital, Billiri, Gombe State under the Control of the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board and Affiliated to Federal Teaching Hospital Gombe; and for Related Matters (HB. 1277) (*Hon. Egbona Alex Egbona — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*).

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 of the Committee on Specialty Healthcare on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Establishment of Orthopaedic Hospital, Billiri, Gombe State to be affiliated to Federal Teaching Hospital, Gombe and for Related Matters (HB.1277) and approved Clauses 1 - 4, 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.

23. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 28 November, 2024 at 11.00 a.m (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.29 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker