



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 30 October, 2024

1. The House met at 11.24 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, 29 October, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
 - (i) **Defection:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi (*Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*) informing the House of his defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC).
 - (ii) **Visitors in the Gallery:**
Mr Speaker announced the presence of the following:
 - (a) the Ambassador of Portugal to Nigeria, Mr Paulo Martin Santos, and the Deputy Head of Mission, Ms Joana Prata Cunha.
 - (b) Members of the Student Union of History and International Studies Department, Plateau State University, Bokokos.
 - (iii) **Change of name of the Committee on Niger Delta Ministry:**
Mr Speaker announced the change of the name of the Committee on Niger Delta Ministry to Committee on Regional Development to reflect the structural changes initiated by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
5. **Admittance into the Chamber**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do admit into the Chamber, the Delegation from the Parliament of Uganda: Hon. Ruyonga Joseph, Hon. Acuti Opio Samuel, Hon. Bhoka Didi

George, Dr Ibrahim Wada OON, Undiga Emuekpere Esq., and Halita Adekunle Esq., pursuant to Order Six, Rule 4 (1) (xi) and (2)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

6. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Emmanuel Solicitors (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of the Registered Trustees of Living Christ Mission Inc., Onitsha, Anambra State, on alleged fraud by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), Abuja, was presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Nonyelum Nwabueze & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of William Ezejiogor, on alleged refusal to pay his outstanding balance of gratuity and pension by the Management of Swiss Biostadt Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Dabai (*Bakori/Danja Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEHUR), on behalf of the staff of Kinosh Smart Parking Nigeria Limited, on alleged corruption and non-payment of their salaries and entitlements by the Managing Director of the Company, was presented and laid by Hon. Murphy Omoruyi Osaro (*Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Buttonwood & Greene (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Ademola Olasupo Abbas and 51 others, on alleged refusal to pay their insurance maturity claims by the Management of Standard Alliance Assurance Company Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Mark Obetta (*Nsukka/Igbo-Eze South Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need for Precautionary Measures to Mitigate Predicted Flood Risks in 22 States and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (FCTA):***
Hon. Sesi Oluwaseun Whingan (*Badagry Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need for Precautionary Measures to Mitigate Predicted Flood Risks in 22 States and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (FCTA):

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government has predicted five days of heavy rainfall, which may lead to flooding in 22 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), according to a report from the National Flood Early Warning Systems Centre of the Federal Ministry of Environment, published by The Punch Nigeria on October 14, 2024;

Also notes that the identified locations most at risk of severe flooding include communities

along the flood plains of River Dongo, Benue, and Ogun, in States such as Osun, Delta, Cross River, Anambra, Taraba, Nasarawa, and Kebbi, among others. The rainfall and potential flooding are predicted from 14 - 18 October, 2024, threatening both life and property;

Further notes that the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), as reported by CNN, revealed that at least 170 people have died and over 200,000 others displaced following weeks of flooding across Nigeria in 2024, with the floods destroying more than 100,000 hectares of farmland. The agency also reported that nearly 2,000 people have been injured, indicating the scale of the humanitarian crisis;

Concerned that the predicted heavy rainfall and resulting floods could have devastating impacts on vulnerable communities, leading to displacement, destruction of property and infrastructure, and potential loss of lives if adequate precautionary mechanisms are not urgently implemented to protect citizens.

Also concerned that despite early warnings, there may not be sufficient proactive measures, such as timely evacuations, temporary shelters, and support systems for affected communities, raising the risk of a severe humanitarian disaster;

Aware that flooding is a recurring issue in Nigeria, often exacerbated by inadequate drainage systems, lack of preparedness, and insufficient coordination among disaster management agencies. Immediate action is required to mitigate the predicted floods and ensure post-flood recovery efforts are well-coordinated;

Resolves to:

- (i) invite the Federal Ministry of Environment, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), and the Ministry of Finance to appear before it to explain what precautionary measures are being implemented to safeguard lives and property in the predicted flood zones and ensure adequate funding is provided for necessary interventions;
- (ii) call on the Federal Ministry of Environment and relevant State Governments to immediately activate evacuation protocols for communities along flood plains, ensuring affected populations have access to temporary shelters, medical services, and other necessary support;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministries of Works, Housing and Urban Development, and Water Resources to carry out an immediate assessment of drainage systems and waterways in flood-prone areas, working to reduce blockages that could worsen the floods;
- (iv) also urge the Executive Arm of Government, through its relevant MDAs, to collaborate with State Governments to enhance disaster preparedness capabilities and ensure the quick deployment of rescue teams, relief materials, and medical assistance to affected areas;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Environment, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Water Resources, and Finance to ensure ongoing monitoring and post-flood rehabilitation efforts, ensuring that affected communities receive long-term support in rebuilding infrastructure and restoring livelihoods (*Hon. Sesi Oluwaseun Whingan — Badagry Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “to appear before”, *leave out* the words “it”, and *insert* the words “the Committees on Environment, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Water Resources, and Finance” (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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 has predicted five days of heavy rainfall, which may lead to flooding in 22 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), according to a report from the National Flood Early Warning Systems Centre of the Federal Ministry of Environment, published by The Punch Nigeria on October 14, 2024;

Also noted that the identified locations most at risk of severe flooding include communities along the flood plains of River Dongo, Benue, and Ogun, in States such as Osun, Delta, Cross River, Anambra, Taraba, Nasarawa, and Kebbi, among others. The rainfall and potential flooding are predicted from 14 - 18 October, 2024, threatening both life and property;

Further noted that the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), as reported by CNN, revealed that at least 170 people have died and over 200,000 others displaced following weeks of flooding across Nigeria in 2024, with the floods destroying more than 100,000 hectares of farmland. The agency also reported that nearly 2,000 people have been injured, indicating the scale of the humanitarian crisis;

Concerned that the predicted heavy rainfall and resulting floods could have devastating impacts on vulnerable communities, leading to displacement, destruction of property and infrastructure, and potential loss of lives if adequate precautionary mechanisms are not urgently implemented to protect citizens.

Also concerned that despite early warnings, there may not be sufficient proactive measures, such as timely evacuations, temporary shelters, and support systems for affected communities, raising the risk of a severe humanitarian disaster;

Aware that flooding is a recurring issue in Nigeria, often exacerbated by inadequate drainage systems, lack of preparedness, and insufficient coordination among disaster management agencies. Immediate action is required to mitigate the predicted floods and ensure post-flood recovery efforts are well-coordinated;

Resolved to:

- (i) invite the Federal Ministry of Environment, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), and the Ministry of Finance to appear before the Committees on Environment, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Water Resources, and Finance to explain what precautionary measures are being implemented to safeguard lives and property in the predicted flood zones and ensure adequate funding is provided for necessary interventions;
- (ii) call on the Federal Ministry of Environment and relevant State Governments to immediately activate evacuation protocols for communities along flood plains, ensuring affected populations have access to temporary shelters, medical services, and other necessary support;

- (iii) urge the Federal Ministries of Works, Housing and Urban Development, and Water Resources to carry out an immediate assessment of drainage systems and waterways in flood-prone areas, working to reduce blockages that could worsen the floods;
 - (iv) also urge the Executive Arm of Government, through its relevant MDAs, to collaborate with State Governments to enhance disaster preparedness capabilities and ensure the quick deployment of rescue teams, relief materials, and medical assistance to affected areas;
 - (v) mandate the Committees on Environment, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Water Resources, and Finance to ensure ongoing monitoring and post-flood rehabilitation efforts, ensuring that affected communities receive long-term support in rebuilding infrastructure and restoring livelihoods **(HR. 151/10/2024)**.
- (ii) ***Need to Appeal to Mr President to Rescind the Scrapping of the Ministry of Niger-delta Development:***
Hon. Oboku Abonsizibe Oforji (*Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Appeal to Mr President to Rescind the Scrapping of the Ministry of Niger-delta Development:

The House:

Notes that the Ministry of Niger Delta Development, formerly Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs was announced on September 10, 2008, by late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua of blessed memory, Ufot Ekaette was appointed Minister of the Ministry in December of the same year;

Also notes that the Ministry was created to promote and coordinate policies for the development, peace, unity and security of the Niger Delta Region. It is expected to formulate and execute plans, programmes and other initiatives as well as coordinate the activities of Agencies, communities, Donors and other relevant stakeholders involved in the development of the Niger Delta Region;

Aware that President Yar'Adua of blessed memory had good intention and foresight for creating the ministry. To him it was a way to ameliorate the suffering, agitations and neglect of the Region for decades by successive governments. A Region that produces the economic wealth of the country and yet poor and poorly governed;

Also aware that, years of oil spillage, lack of arable land and social amenities, etc. had necessitated the emergence of militancy in the oil rich region. It was in the short term of late President Yar'Adua 's leadership from Katsina State that dialogue was initiated with major stakeholders in the region and militants culminating in the Amnesty Program that has brought relative peace to the oil rich Niger Delta Region;

Further aware that these were prelude to the creation of the ministry which was aimed at infrastructural development, environmental protection and empowerment of the youths in the oil rich Niger Delta Region. Are we there yet? The answer is no, but the people of the Niger Delta believe that the lofty dreams and aspirations of the founding fathers of the region will be actualized someday, hence their embrace of the creation of the Ministry of Niger Delta Development;

Disturbed that on Wednesday, 23 October, 2024, the oil rich region witnessed palpable tension following the announcement of the scrapping of the Ministry of Niger Delta Development, by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. This is not a good omen for a region that has contributed immensely to the economy development of our country and has enjoyed some relative peace;

Resolves to:

Urge the Executive Arm of Government led by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to urgently rescind the scrapping of the Ministry of Niger Delta Development (*Hon. Oboku Abonsizibe Oforji — Yanagoa/Kolokuma-Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.

(iii) *Need to Stop Issuance of Airstrip License to Private Individuals and Organizations in the Country:*

Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi (*Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Stop Issuance of Airstrip License to Private Individuals and Organizations in the Country:

The House:

Aware that the Federal Government through the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace, Festus Keyamo, confirmed the approval of an airstrip for Living Faith Church situated on Canaanland in Ota, Ogun State (*The Punch*, 9 October, 2024);

Also aware that on Sunday, 6 October, 2024, the Founder of Living Faith Church, also known as Winners Chapel, Bishop David Oyedepo during the Tehillah Night Special edition at Covenant University Chapel, Canaanland, Ota, Ogun State informed his congregation of the approval of an airstrip granted by the Federal Government to his Church;

Recalls that in September 2014, a prominent religious leader was linked with a private jet used to convey \$9.3m in cash to South Africa for purchase of arms. The private jet which was seized by the South African authorities has two Nigerians and an Israeli on board (*Sahara Reporters*, 16 September, 2014);

Concerned that the country currently experience security challenges through illegal importation/proliferation of firearms and ammunition, importation of illicit/hard drugs, coupled with the inability of our security agencies to pinpoint the source of supply of weapons to insurgents, kidnappers and separatists that have massacred thousands of Nigerians across the country;

Worried that granting airstrip to private individuals and organizations will aid illegal importation of firearms and hard drugs into the country, thus heightening insurgency, kidnapping, banditry and other vices that are seriously affecting the socio-economic development of the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace to stop issuance of airstrip license to private individuals and organizations, and also withdraw approvals already granted to private individuals and organizations, with a view to safeguarding national security;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Aviation, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi — Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the Federal Government through the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace, Festus Keyamo, confirmed the approval of an airstrip for Living Faith Church situated on Canaanland in Ota, Ogun State (*The Punch*, 9 October, 2024);

Also aware that on Sunday, 6 October, 2024, the Founder of Living Faith Church, also known as Winners Chapel, Bishop David Oyedepo during the Tehillah Night Special edition at Covenant University Chapel, Canaanland, Ota, Ogun State informed his congregation of the approval of an airstrip granted by the Federal Government to his Church;

Recalled that in September 2014, a prominent religious leader was linked with a private jet used to convey \$9.3m in cash to South Africa for purchase of arms. The private jet which was seized by the South African authorities has two Nigerians and an Israeli on board (*Sahara Reporters*, 16 September, 2014);

Concerned that the country currently experience security challenges through illegal importation/proliferation of firearms and ammunition, importation of illicit/hard drugs, coupled with the inability of our security agencies to pinpoint the source of supply of weapons to insurgents, kidnappers and separatists that have massacred thousands of Nigerians across the country;

Worried that granting airstrip to private individuals and organizations will aid illegal importation of firearms and hard drugs into the country, thus heightening insurgency, kidnapping, banditry and other vices that are seriously affecting the socio-economic development of the country;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace to stop issuance of airstrip license to

private individuals and organizations, and also withdraw approvals already granted to private individuals and organizations, with a view to safeguarding national security;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Aviation, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 152/10/2024**).

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1852).
- (2) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1855).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) (FCT House of Assembly) Bill, 2024 (HB.1783).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) (Multiplayer Policing) Bill, 2024 (HB.1807).
- (5) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) (Compensation in the Land Use Act) Bill, 2024 (HB.1808).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) (Six Special Seats for Special Interest Group) Bill, 2024 (HB.1811).
- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) (Expand Criminal Categories) Bill, 2024 (HB.1814).
- (8) Compulsory Genotype Screening Bill, 2024 (HB.1812).
- (9) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Isiokpo, Rivers State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1708).
- (10) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1722).
- (11) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1723).
- (12) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1724).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1731).
- (14) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1732).
- (15) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1733).
- (16) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1734).
- (17) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1725).

- (18) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1729).
- (19) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1730).
- (20) Federal Medical Centres, Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1855).

9. A Bill for an Act to Prevent, Prohibit and Redress Sexual Harassment of Students in Tertiary Educational Institutions and for Related Matters (HB.1598) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Prevent, Prohibit and Redress Sexual Harassment of Students in Tertiary Educational Institutions and for Related Matters (HB.1598) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Itigidi, Cross River State and for Related Matters (HB.642) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Itigidi, Cross River State and for Related Matters (HB.642) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Health Sciences, Gaya, Kano State and Related Matters (HB. 31) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Health Sciences, Gaya, Kano State and Related Matters (HB. 31) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

12. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ikole-Ekiti, Ekiti State and for Related Matters (HB.1037) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ikole-Ekiti, Ekiti State and for Related Matters (HB.1037) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

13. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to make Provisions for Establishment of Federal College of Agricultural Technology, Opialu-Ojapo, Benue State to contribute to the Development of Nigeria through Training of Qualitative Manpower in Agriculture by adequate exposure to Sound Theoretical Background, Practical Farm and field Demonstration and for Related Matters (SB.212) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to make Provisions for

Establishment of Federal College of Agricultural Technology, Opialu-Ojapo, Benue State to contribute to the Development of Nigeria through Training of Qualitative Manpower in Agriculture by adequate exposure to Sound Theoretical Background, Practical Farm and field Demonstration and for Related Matters (SB.212) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.

14. **A Bill for an Act to alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to carve out Nasarawa Eggon Federal Constituency from Akwanga/Nasarawa Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency and for Related Matters (HB.1316) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to carve out Nasarawa Eggon Federal Constituency from Akwanga/Nasarawa Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency and for Related Matters (HB.1316) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Jeremiah Umaru — Akwanga/Nassarawa/Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Constitution Review.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Amend Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Saki, Oyo State for the Provision of Tertiary Healthcare Services, Medical Education and for Related Matters (HB.1356) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Saki, Oyo State for the Provision of Tertiary Healthcare Services, Medical Education and for Related Matters (HB.1356) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Karim Tajudeen Abisodun — Saki East/Saki West/Atigbo 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 Health Institutions.

16. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Akure, Ondo State and for Related Matters (HB. 1375) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Akure, Ondo State and for Related Matters (HB. 1375) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Adesida Abiodun Cornelius — Akure North/Akure South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture, Mbatie, Buruku, Benue State and for Related Matters (HB.572) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture, Mbatie, Buruku, Benue State and for Related Matters (HB.572) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Sekav Dzua Iyortyom — Buruku. 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.

18. **Rescission of the Federal University of Agriculture, Kabba, Kogi State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1520)**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Kabba, Kogi State was considered, subsequently read the third time and passed;

Aware of the existence of the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, and therefore introducing an establishment Bill may not be ideal in the circumstance but rather an amendment of the existing Act on Federal Universities of Agriculture Act;

Resolves to:

Rescind its decision on the passage of the Federal University of Agriculture, Kabba, Kogi State (Establishment) Bill (HB.1520) and recommit the Bill to the Committee of the whole for reconsideration (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

19. **Outstanding Bills from Preceding Assembly**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

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

- (a) whose report was presented by the Committee before consideration,

- (b) passed by the House and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negative,
- (c) passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negative, or
- (d) passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the preceding Assembly;

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

- (i) National Broadcasting Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1816),
- (ii) Federal university, Wukari (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB 1382);

Aware that the Bills were read for the first time as HB.1816 and HB.1382;

Resolves to:

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

Agreed to.

20. Need to Address Flooding and Gully Erosion Devastating Communities in Birnin Kebbi, Kalgo, and Bunza Local Government Areas, Kebbi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the growing impact of climate change, which has adversely affected and impacted environments across the globe, resulting in environmental and socio-economic challenges;

Also notes that flooding and gully erosion are exacerbated by increased rainfall, poor environmental practices, inadequate or inefficient drainage systems due to lack of preparedness by relevant government agencies to respond to climate change projections, and poor waste disposal practices;

Concerned that communities within Birnin Kebbi, Kalgo, and Bunza Local Government Areas, -including Bunza Marafa, Nassarawa 1&2, Diggi, Kola Tarasa Badariya, Nassarawa, Zauro, Ambursa, Kalgo, Raha, Bunza, Dan Galadima, Maidahini, and Sabon Birni-have been severely impacted by recurring floods and expanding gully erosion annually, leading to the loss of valuable farmlands that are crucial for agriculture and local economy;

Also concerned that the Floods and erosion have caused displacement of families and trauma in affected communities, leading to socio-economic disruption;

Aware that the Communities are currently grappling with economic challenges due to the loss of essential services, lack of government intervention, infrastructure destruction, and impeded transportation of goods, exacerbating the crisis;

Also aware that these communities are predominantly agrarian experiencing ongoing losses due to inability to transport produce, coupled with the growing encroachment of gully erosion on their farmlands, which threaten future livelihoods;

Cognizant of the need to address the gully erosion to alleviate residents' suffering, reclaim productive land, boost economic activities, and restore the residents confidence in government and environmental protection;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ecological Fund Office and other related agencies to conduct an impact assessment of the affected communities and provide necessary funding for a robust remediation plan to mitigate the effects of flood and gully erosion;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately provide relief materials to the affected communities in Birnin Kebbi, Kalgo, and Bunza Local Government Areas;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment, Works, and Water Resources to make adequate provisions for the construction of proper drainage systems in Birnin Kebbi, Kalgo, and Bunza Local Government Areas, Kebbi State and the implementation of erosion control measures in the 2025 budget estimates (*Hon. Ibrahim Mohammed — Birnin Kebbi/Kalgo/Bunza Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the growing impact of climate change, which has adversely affected and impacted environments across the globe, resulting in environmental and socio-economic challenges;

Also noted that flooding and gully erosion are exacerbated by increased rainfall, poor environmental practices, inadequate or inefficient drainage systems due to lack of preparedness by relevant government agencies to respond to climate change projections, and poor waste disposal practices;

Concerned that communities within Birnin Kebbi, Kalgo, and Bunza Local Government Areas, -including Bunza Marafa, Nassarawa 1&2, Diggi, Kola Tarasa Badariya, Nassarawa, Zauro, Ambursa, Kalgo, Raha, Bunza, Dan Galadima, Maidahini, and Sabon Birni-have been severely impacted by recurring floods and expanding gully erosion annually, leading to the loss of valuable farmlands that are crucial for agriculture and local economy;

Also concerned that the Floods and erosion have caused displacement of families and trauma in affected communities, leading to socio-economic disruption;

Aware that the Communities are currently grappling with economic challenges due to the loss of essential services, lack of government intervention, infrastructure destruction, and impeded transportation of goods, exacerbating the crisis;

Also aware that these communities are predominantly agrarian experiencing ongoing losses due to inability to transport produce, coupled with the growing encroachment of gully erosion on their farmlands, which threaten future livelihoods;

Cognizant of the need to address the gully erosion to alleviate residents' suffering, reclaim productive land, boost economic activities, and restore the residents confidence in government and environmental protection;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Ecological Fund Office and other related agencies to conduct an impact assessment

of the affected communities and provide necessary funding for a robust remediation plan to mitigate the effects of flood and gully erosion;

- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately provide relief materials to the affected communities in Birnin Kebbi, Kalgo, and Bunza Local Government Areas;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment, Works, and Water Resources to make adequate provisions for the construction of proper drainage systems in Birnin Kebbi, Kalgo, and Bunza Local Government Areas, Kebbi State and the implementation of erosion control measures in the 2025 budget estimates (**HR. 153/10/2024**).

21. Need to Acquire Adjoining Pieces of Land to Expand Federal Medical Centres, Jabi, Ebute Metta and the National Hospital, Abuja
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Medical Centre, Ebute-Metta began as a railway hospital in 1964 and later became a FMC in 2004 and still located in the Nigerian Railway Corporation Compound in Ebute-Metta, Lagos;

Also notes that the hospital, Federal Medical Centre, Ebute-Metta, shares premises with an event center and printing press, which attract customers daily, disrupting hospital administration and causing inconvenience to patients, therefore, necessitating urgent evacuation and acquisition of new premises for expansion;

Further notes that Federal Medical Centre, Jabi, Abuja, is congested and challenged with meeting the growing demand of healthcare services for the teeming population of the Federal Capital Territory and its environs;

Aware that a professional institute shares the same fence with the Federal Medical Centre, Jabi and was allocated large hectares of land for the building of its permanent site; however, the Institute has not developed the land;

Cognizant of the overriding Public interest therefore, re-allocating the Institute's Land to the FMC, Jabi for expansion will result in better and more efficient healthcare service delivery;

Informed that the National Hospital, Abuja is in critical need of land to build its accident and emergency unit hence the need to acquire the vacant land outside the National Hospital gate;

Also cognizant that these proposed land acquisitions and hospital expansion are critical for the effective delivery of healthcare services to Nigerian citizens, and for overriding public interest;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Railway Corporation, Federal Capital Territory Administration to approve these plots of land to the hospitals for the deserved expansion and initiate compensation procedure to the affected occupants; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Land Transport, Federal Capital Territory, Legislative Compliance, and Health Institutions to ensure compliance (*Hon. Amos Gwamna Magiji — Zangon/Kataf Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Medical Centre, Ebute-Metta began as a railway hospital in 1964 and later became a FMC in 2004 and still located in the Nigerian Railway Corporation Compound in Ebute-Metta, Lagos;

Also noted that the hospital, Federal Medical Centre, Ebute-Metta, shares premises with an event center and printing press, which attract customers daily, disrupting hospital administration and causing inconvenience to patients, therefore, necessitating urgent evacuation and acquisition of new premises for expansion;

Further noted that Federal Medical Centre, Jabi, Abuja, is congested and challenged with meeting the growing demand of healthcare services for the teeming population of the Federal Capital Territory and its environs;

Aware that a professional institute shares the same fence with the Federal Medical Centre, Jabi and was allocated large hectares of land for the building of its permanent site; however, the Institute has not developed the land;

Cognizant of the overriding Public interest therefore, re-allocating the Institute's Land to the FMC, Jabi for expansion will result in better and more efficient healthcare service delivery;

Informed that the National Hospital, Abuja is in critical need of land to build its accident and emergency unit hence the need to acquire the vacant land outside the National Hospital gate;

Also cognizant that these proposed land acquisitions and hospital expansion are critical for the effective delivery of healthcare services to Nigerian citizens, and for overriding public interest;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Railway Corporation, Federal Capital Territory Administration to approve these plots of land to the hospitals for the deserved expansion and initiate compensation procedure to the affected occupants; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Land Transport, Federal Capital Territory, Legislative Compliance and Health Institutions to ensure compliance **(HR. 154/10/2024)**.

22. Need to Address the Secretive Employment in the Federal Civil Service

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

23. Call for Relocation of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Local Government Offices to Neutral Locations

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House

Notes that Section 157 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) guarantees the Independent National Election Commission (INEC) unhindered autonomy and independence to conduct national elections;

Also notes that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has a critical role in conducting free, fair, and credible elections;

Further notes that majority of the INEC's Local Government Offices are currently situated within local government headquarters or otherwise;

Aware that this is potentially hampering and compromising the independence of INEC in the conduct of national elections;

Observes that this proximity exposes INEC to manipulation and control by Council Chairmen, particularly in areas dominated by a single political party;

Concerned that this impedes INEC's impartiality as enshrined in Section 6 of the Electoral, Act 2022;

Cognizant of the need to maintain public trust and confidence in the electoral process;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge INEC to relocate its local government offices to secure neutral locations and make adequate provision in the 2025 budget estimates to accommodate the project;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Electoral Matters to liaise with Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and other relevant stakeholders to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Paul Sunday Nnamchi — Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House

Noted that Section 157 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) guarantees the Independent National Election Commission (INEC) unhindered autonomy and independence to conduct national elections;

Also noted that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has a critical role in conducting free, fair, and credible elections;

Further noted that majority of the INEC's Local Government Offices are currently situated within local government headquarters or otherwise;

Aware that this is potentially hampering and compromising the independence of INEC in the conduct of national elections;

Observed that this proximity exposes INEC to manipulation and control by Council Chairmen, particularly in areas dominated by a single political party;

Concerned that this impedes INEC's impartiality as enshrined in Section 6 of the Electoral, Act 2022;

Cognizant of the need to maintain public trust and confidence in the electoral process;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge INEC to relocate its local government offices to secure neutral locations and make adequate provision in the 2025 budget estimates to accommodate the project;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Electoral Matters to liaise with Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and other relevant stakeholders to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 155/10/2024**).

24. Funding of Exploration for Data in the Solid Minerals Space to Unlock Mineral Deposits and enhance Foreign Exchange Earnings

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria is going through a difficult economic phase with dwindling foreign exchange inflows of negative effect on naira strength, as it was described in recent times as one of the worst performing in Africa alongside Ethiopia;

Also notes that Nigeria has been a mono economy with high dependence on Oil and Gas, now with the Energy Transition and the departure from the use of fossil fuels, the country may begin to experience a decline in revenues from this sector;

Further notes that Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) estimated \$400 million on frontier exploration annually in Nigeria and in 2021, NNPC spent ₦20 Billion in seven months on Frontier exploration alone;

Aware that Nigeria is blessed with abundant resources and that during the colonial era and pre independence period, Nigeria's main income was solid minerals. The KPMG Nigeria Mining Sector Brief of June 2024, listed the potential of a number of minerals as follows:

- (i) Coal, has a reserve estimate of about 2.73 billion metric tons and proven reserves of 639 million tons,
- (ii) Bitumen, has an estimated 42.47 billion tons,
- (iii) Barite, has an estimated 23 million metric tons,
- (iv) Lead - Zinc, have been observed along a belt of approximately 30 - 50 Km wide stretching for about 560km km in length from Ebonyi State, through Benue, Bauchi, Adamawa, Taraba, Nasarawa and Plateau States,
- (v) Limestone, estimated reserve of 10.6 billion tons across 14 States,
- (vi) Iron Ore, has an estimated reserve of about 3 billion tons,
- (vii) Gold, has estimate reserves of about 21.37 metric tons valued at \$ 1 Billion dollars as at 2nd quarter of 2023;

Conscious that these deposits if explored to a bankable data level will bring enormous foreign exchange inflow that will contribute significantly to our nations GDP;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to:
 - (a) appropriate the sum of \$500 million or its equivalent for exploration as a special intervention in the solid minerals sector in the forth coming 2025 budget estimate,
 - (b) explore bilateral agreements on a Government-to-Government level to get the required expertise at affordable rates for the exploration service and support technology transfer;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Appropriations, Finance, and Solid Minerals to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ojo Sunday Mankanjuola — Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

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

“make adequate provisions in the 2025 budget estimates as special intervention in the solid minerals sector” (*Hon. Nwaeke Felix Uche — Eleme/Tai/Oyigbo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria is going through a difficult economic phase with dwindling foreign exchange inflows of negative effect on naira strength, as it was described in recent times as one of the worst performing in Africa alongside Ethiopia;

Also noted that Nigeria has been a mono economy with high dependence on Oil and Gas, now with the Energy Transition and the departure from the use of fossil fuels, the country may begin to experience a decline in revenues from this sector;

Further noted that Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) estimated \$400 million on frontier exploration annually in Nigeria and in 2021, NNPC spent ₦20 Billion in seven months on Frontier exploration alone;

Aware that Nigeria is blessed with abundant resources and that during the colonial era and pre independence period, Nigeria's main income was solid minerals. The KPMG Nigeria Mining Sector Brief of June 2024, listed the potential of a number of minerals as follows:

- (i) Coal, has a reserve estimate of about 2.73 billion metric tons and proven reserves of 639 million tons,
- (ii) Bitumen, has an estimated 42.47 billion tons,
- (iii) Barite, has an estimated 23 million metric tons,
- (iv) Lead - Zinc, have been observed along a belt of approximately 30 - 50 Km wide stretching for about 560km km in length from Ebonyi State, through Benue, Bauchi, Adamawa, Taraba, Nasarawa and Plateau States,
- (v) Limestone, estimated reserve of 10.6 billion tons across 14 States,
- (vi) Iron Ore, has an estimated reserve of about 3 billion tons,
- (vii) Gold, has estimate reserves of about 21.37 metric tons valued at \$ 1 Billion dollars as at 2nd quarter of 2023;

Conscious that these deposits if explored to a bankable data level will bring enormous foreign exchange inflow that will contribute significantly to our nations GDP;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to:
 - (a) make adequate provisions in the 2025 budget estimates as special intervention in the solid minerals sector;

- (b) explore bilateral agreements on a Government-to-Government level to get the required expertise at affordable rates for the exploration service and support technology transfer;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Appropriations, Finance, and Solid Minerals to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks **(HR. 156/10/2024)**.

25. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down items 17 - 22 on the Order Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

26. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 31 October, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.14 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker