



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 4 October, 2023

1. The House met at 11:24 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 3 October, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
Bereavement:
Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Anamero Dekeri (*Etsako Federal Constituency*), informing the House of the demise of his father, Pa James Sunday Dekeri whose death occurred on Wednesday, 6 September, 2023 at the age of 90.
5. **Mr Deputy Speaker's Remark**
Mr Deputy Speaker referred to the debate on Nigeria 63rd Independence Day Celebration, *vide Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 3 October, 2023* and noted that the debate will continue this week to enable Members who desire to speak on the matter take their turn.

He maintained that going forward, a minimum of 30 minutes will be devoted for national discourse to address the challenges in the country and proffer ways forward as a collective means for nation building.

6. **Petitions**
 - (i) Hon. Julius Ihonvbere (*Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*) presented and laid the following petitions:
 - (a) Patrick Osagie Eholor, on alleged stigmatization and inhuman treatment against Nigerians by the Chinese Authority;

- (b) Patrick Osagie Eholor, on the need to accelerate the amendment of the Constitution to enable INEC conduct Local Government Election;
- (ii) Hon. Uduak Odudoh Alphonsus (*Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from Idemefe Alban Francis, on alleged non-payment of his arrears and pension;
- (iii) Hon. Tasir Olawale Raji (*Epe Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from Iraye-Oke community, on alleged intimidation, assault and trespass over 329.588 hectares of land by the Nigerian Army;
- (iv) Hon. Eze Nwachukwu Eze (*Ebonyi/Ohuakwu Federal Constituency*) presented and laid the following petitions:
 - (a) Alhaji Alih, on alleged dismissal from the service of Public Complaints Commission by the Management;
 - (b) Jolly Asemota and 6 Others, on the alleged maltreatment and exploitation of drivers by ADDAX Petroleum Sinopec/NNPC Antan Producing Limited;
- (vi) Hon. Etanabene Benedict (*Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from Oviwie Ramond, on alleged victimization by the Dentistry Department, University of Benin;
- (vii) Hon. Emmanuel Ujuru (*Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from Obasi Macpherson Chukwuma, on alleged bogus social investment program against the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning;
- (viii) Hon. Fatoba Olusola (*Ado-Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*) presented and laid the following petitions:
 - (a) from Daniel Ujong and Associates (Legal Practitioners), against the illegal operations of Tank Farm in Calabar Free Trade Zone and Esuk Utan community;
 - (b) MC Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on alleged perennial blackout, extortion and neglect of Mbaise district against Enugu Electricity Distribution Company and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission;
- (ix) Hon. Afam Victor Ogene (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*) presented and laid the following petitions:
 - (a) Titanium Shield (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Juliana Amakeye Olayi seeking for refund of unauthorised and fraudulent withdrawal from her account with Guaranty Trust Bank Plc despite her written instruction to the Bank to block the account;
 - (b) Sam Aram & Co., (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Emmanuella Folashade Sam-Ibrahim against overland Anmayo Limited, on the alleged gross abuse of her right as a passenger on the airline and disregard for safety standard;
 - (c) Mary Wambo Abraham Esq of M C Chambers praying the House to probe the burning of vessel carrying 800,000 litres of stolen crude oil in the Escravos Area of Delta State on Saturday, 4 July, 2023 by security operatives of the Joint Task Force in collaboration with Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited;

- (d) Dr J. C. Arah & one other against the alleged authoritarian and high- hardness by the Rector of the Federal Polytechnic Oko, praying the House to intervene with a view to prevent abuse of power;
- (e) Klyshier Global Services Limited, on behalf of Mr Emenike Orji against Total Energies Exp Nigeria Limited, praying the House to prevail on the company to pay his compensation and the judgment awarded to him by the High Court, Rivers State in Suit No: AHC/42/2013.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

7. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)

- (i) ***Need to Save the Lives of People of Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency From Killings, Further Unscrupulous Behaviours and Attacks by Police and Other Government Agencies:***
Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onualalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Save the Lives of People of Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency From Killings, Further Unscrupulous Behaviours and Attacks by Police and Other Government Agencies:

The House:

Notes the mayhem was unleashed on the residents of Ago road, Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency by the Police and LASMA Officers on Tuesday, 3 October, 2023;

Also notes that the people of Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency, have been living in constant fear as a result of the recent spate of violence and attacks by the Police and LASMA officers which have created a state of insecurity threatening the source of livelihoods of the communities;

Informed that these officers constantly harass drivers on moving vehicles causing them to lose control and wrecked havoc;

Worried that the incident paints a horrible picture of Police brutality and extrajudicial killings which has become a nightmare to the community;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the violence and killings by the Police and other government agencies officer being perpetrated against the people of Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency;
- (ii) calls on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to immediately investigate the mayhem and ensure that those responsible face the full wrath of the Law and report in 14 days;

- (iii) urge the relevant security agencies to provide adequate security measures and personnel to safeguard the people of Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency therein;
- (iv) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant agencies to provide relief and support to the victims of the violence in Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency;
- (v) send four (4) Members to Oshodi/Isolo II to commiserate with the families of the victims and equally with the Speaker of Lagos State House of Assembly (*Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi — Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the mayhem was unleashed on the residents of Ago road, Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency by the Police and LASMA Officers on Tuesday, 3 October, 2023;

Also noted that the people of Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency, have been living in constant fear as a result of the recent spate of violence and attacks by the Police and LASMA officers which have created a state of insecurity threatening the source of livelihoods of the communities;

Informed that these officers constantly harass drivers on moving vehicles causing them to lose control and wrecked havoc;

Worried that the incident paints a horrible picture of Police brutality and extrajudicial killings which has become a nightmare to the community;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn the violence and killings by the Police and other government agencies officer being perpetrated against the people of Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency;
 - (ii) calls on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to immediately investigate the mayhem and ensure that those responsible face the full wrath of the Law and report in 14 days;
 - (iii) urge the relevant security agencies to provide adequate security measures and personnel to safeguard the people of Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency therein;
 - (iv) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant agencies to provide relief and support to the victims of the violence in Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency;
 - (v) send four (4) Members to Oshodi/Isolo II to commiserate with the families of the victims and equally with the Speaker of Lagos State House of Assembly (**HR. 199/10/2023**).
- (ii) ***Fuel Tanker Explosion a Koko Junction in the Dilapidated Warri-Benin Highway, Delta State tat Claimed Over Twenty (20) Lives:***
Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi (Warri North/Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Fuel Tanker Explosion at Koko Junction in the Dilapidated Warri-Benin Highway, Delta State Claims Over Twenty (20) Lives:

The House:

Notes the unfortunate loss of over twenty (20) lives including children and women on Sunday, 1 October, 2023, when a fallen tanker laden with Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS) exploded at Koko Junction in the Warri-Benin highway in Delta State;

Aware that apart from the deaths recorded, people sustained different degrees of injuries while over 16 vehicles and 3 motor cycles were destroyed by the inferno;

Worried that this unfortunate incident will further worsen the plight of road users who already had to cope with massive gridlock occasioned by the dilapidated road; spending hours on a journey that should ordinarily not exceed 45 minutes;

Disturbed that Warri-Benin highway is plagued by significant number of accidents each year, often involving tankers and other heavy duty vehicles which topple over as drivers maneuver failed portions of the road;

Distressed that with the accident, commuters and motorists will become more exposed to attacks by hoodlums/miscreants who take advantage of such situations to wreck havoc;

Concerned that the failed portions of this road has become a death trap for users of the road with little or no remedial efforts from any quarter to redress the situation;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the tragic incident;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to immediately send relief materials to affected victims and settle medical bills of those hospitalized;
- (iii) also urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to expedite action on the rehabilitation of the Warri-Benin highway and other federal roads around the country with a view to forestalling future occurrence.
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Management, Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi — Warri North/Warri South/Warri South West Federal Constituency and One Other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the unfortunate loss of over twenty (20) lives including children and women on Sunday, 1 October, 2023, when a fallen tanker laden with Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS) exploded at Koko Junction in the Warri-Benin highway in Delta State;

Aware that apart from the deaths recorded, people sustained different degrees of injuries while over 16 vehicles and 3 motor cycles were destroyed by the inferno;

Worried that this unfortunate incident will further worsen the plight of road users who already had to cope with massive gridlock occasioned by the dilapidated road; spending hours on a journey that should ordinarily not exceed 45 minutes;

Disturbed that Warri-Benin highway is plagued by significant number of accidents each year, often involving tankers and other heavy duty vehicles which topple over as drivers maneuver failed portions of the road;

Distressed that with the accident, commuters and motorists will become more exposed to attacks by hoodlums/miscreants who take advantage of such situations to wreck havoc;

Concerned that the failed portions of this road has become a death trap for users of the road with little or no remedial efforts from any quarter to redress the situation;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the tragic incident;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to immediately send relief materials to affected victims and settle medical bills of those hospitalized;
- (iii) also urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to expedite action on the rehabilitation of the Warri-Benin highway and other federal roads around the country with a view to forestalling future occurrence.
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Management, Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 200/10/2023**).

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than two matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Damboa/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iii) ***Need to Address the Resurgence of Armed Herdsmen Attacks on Some Communities in Bassa and Jos North Local Government Areas of Plateau State:***

Hon. Avai Musa Agah (*Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Address the Resurgence of Armed Herdsmen Attacks on Some Communities in Bassa and Jos North Local Government Areas of Plateau State:

The House:

Notes with sadness the wanton destruction of lives and properties occasioned by armed herdsmen in some communities of Irigwe Chiefdom of Bassa Local Government Area, Plateau State;

Also notes that Adu and Kpachudu Villages in Kwall and Miango Districts of Irigwe extraction are highly agrarian communities;

Worried that the affected communities are peaceful, and appreciate peaceful coexistence experienced the resurgence of an unprovoked attack resulting in the murder of late Japheth Thomas, a primary school teacher in Kpachudu village on 27 September, 2023, on his way back home from a neighbouring village;

Concerned that the armed herdsmen who appeared determined and relentless in their heinous crimes later meted yet another devastating attack on innocent locals of Adu village on 1 October, 2023, thereby leaving scores of deaths comprising women and children with several others critically injured;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased persons;
- (ii) urge the chief of defence staff, the inspector general of police and Heads of other security agencies to as a matter of urgency, deploy their personnel to the affected communities for joint operation to flush out the criminals and restore normalcy.
- (iii) mandate the relevant security Committees of the House and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Avia Agah Musa — Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with sadness the wanton destruction of lives and properties occasioned by armed herdsmen in some communities of Irigwe Chiefdom of Bassa Local Government Area, Plateau State;

Also noted that Adu and Kpachudu Villages in Kwall and Miango Districts of Irigwe extraction are highly agrarian communities;

Worried that the affected communities are peaceful, and appreciate peaceful coexistence experienced the resurgence of an unprovoked attack resulting in the murder of late Japheth Thomas, a primary school teacher in Kpachudu village on 27 September, 2023, on his way back home from a neighbouring village;

Concerned that the armed herdsmen who appeared determined and relentless in their heinous crimes later meted yet another devastating attack on innocent locals of Adu village on 1

October, 2023, thereby leaving scores of deaths comprising women and children with several others critically injured;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased persons;
- (ii) urge the chief of defence staff, the inspector general of police and Heads of other security agencies to as a matter of urgency, deploy their personnel to the affected communities for joint operation to flush out the criminals and restore normalcy.
- (iii) mandate the relevant security Committees of the House and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 201/10/2023**).

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.500).
- (2) Mandatory Inclusion of Teachings on Breast and Cervical Cancers into the Curriculum of all Senior Secondary Schools in Nigeria Bill, 2023 (HB. 501).
- (3) Mandatory Inclusion of Preventive Measures and Teachings on Sexual Gender Based Violence into the Curriculum of all Levels of Secondary Schools in Nigeria Bill, 2023 (HB.502).
- (4) National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education Bill, 2023 (HB.503).
- (5) Teachers Registration Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.504).
- (6) Chartered Nigerian Institute for Industrial Security (HB.505).
- (7) Federal Institute of Technical and Vocational Education, Imeko, Ogun State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.506).
- (8) Federal Medical Centre, Kwoi, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.507).
- (9) Ginger Research Institute, Samaru Kataf, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.508).
- (10) Nutrition and Dietetics (Registration) Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 509).
- (11) National Vocational Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.510).
- (12) Penal Code (Northern State) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.511).
- (13) Federal Universities of Agriculture Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 512).
- (14) Federal Medical Centre, National Assembly, Abuja (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.513).
- (15) Civil Defence Corps, Correctional, Federal Fire and Immigration Services Board Bill, 2023 (HB.514).
- (16) Factoring Assignment and Receivables Financing (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.516).

- (17) Advisory Council on Religious Affairs Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.517).
- (18) Integrated Corporate Data Management Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.518).
- (19) National Youth Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 519).
- (20) Federal Colleges of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.520).
- (21) National Football Academy (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.521).
- (22) Federal College of Education, Ugboha, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.522).
- (23) National Institute of Agricultural Research Oria, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.523).
- (24) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery Amoji-Nike, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.524).

9. Presentation of Report

Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Investigate the Circumstances Surrounding the Acquisition of OVH Energy by NNPC Limited:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Need to Investigate the Circumstances Surrounding the Acquisition of OVH Energy by NNPC Limited on the Need to Investigate the Irregularities and Alleged Corruption in the Nigeria Energy Security Provider, NNPC Retail Limited and the Acquisition of OVH Energy Marketing **(HR. 171/07/2023)**” (*Hon. Hassan Abubakar Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

10. Need to Address Illegal Violations of Due Process of Federal Character Lopsided Recruitment by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, Nigerian Immigration Service and Federal Fire Service

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. Need reactivate the Collapsed 33/11KVA Electricity Line from Sokoto to Kware and Gwadabwa/Illela Federal Constituency, Sokoto State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that for the past nine and a half years, the Sokoto East Federal Constituency consisting of eight Local Government Areas have been in complete darkness;

Aware of the presence of higher education facilities, which includes Africa's top Animal Farms, Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Kware, School of Health Technology, Gwadabawa, College of Agriculture Wurno, a Zonal Agricultural farm and Commercial Banks in Kware operating under challenging circumstances without electricity supply;

Also aware that despite sharing an International border with the Niger Republic and therefore requiring Socio-economic development but machinery equipment and facilities in the area are dilapidated and comatose owing to a lack of power supply;

Cognizant of the need to reactivate the 33/11KVA electric line to rectify the situation of Kware and Gwadabawa/Illela Federal Constituency, Sokoto State

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power through the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to make provision for the reactivation of the collapsed and dilapidated 33/11KVA electricity line from Sokoto-Kware-Gwadabawa and Illela, Sokoto State in the 2024 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Power, and Appropriations to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bello Isah Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “Sokoto State”, *insert* the words “Eight Local Government Areas in Sokoto East” (*Hon. Ibrahim Aliyu Ahmustapha — Wurno/Rabbah Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (i), as amended, immediately after the words “Sokoto East”, *insert* the words “and from Sifawa - Yabo - Shagari - Sauyima” (*Hon. Yusuf Umar Yabo — Yabo/Shagari Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that for the past nine and a half years, the Sokoto East Federal Constituency consisting of eight Local Government Areas have been in complete darkness;

Aware of the presence of higher education facilities, which includes Africa's top Animal Farms, Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Kware, School of Health Technology, Gwadabawa, College of Agriculture Wurno, a Zonal Agricultural farm and Commercial Banks in Kware operating under challenging circumstances without electricity supply;

Also aware that despite sharing an International border with the Niger Republic and therefore requiring Socio-economic development but machinery equipment and facilities in the area are dilapidated and comatose owing to a lack of power supply;

Cognizant of the need to reactivate the 33/11KVA electric line to rectify the situation of Kware and Gwadabawa/Illela Federal Constituency, Sokoto State

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power through the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to make provision for the reactivation of the collapsed and dilapidated 33/11KVA electricity line from Sokoto-Kware-Gwadabawa and Illela, Sokoto State, Eight Local Government Areas in Sokoto East, and Sifawa - Yabo - Shagari - Sauyima, in the 2024 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Power, and Appropriations to ensure compliance (**HR. 202/10/2023**).

12. Need to Re-award the Contract for the Completion of Panyam- Bokkos -Wamba Road Bokko
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the deplorable State of the Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road, which has remained in a state of disrepair for more than 10 years, causing untold hardship to the people of the area;

Also notes that contract for the construction of the road was awarded, but the project has been abandoned as the contractor failed to adhere to some terms and conditions of the contract;

Cognizant of the need to re-award the contract for completion of the road project to a competent contractor who will complete the job within the stipulated deadline and up to the required standards;

Also cognizant that the road, if completed, will ease the movement of goods from the area to other parts of the country as it is the shortest route connecting the North-central and the North-east geopolitical zones;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to, immediately re-award the contract for the completion of the Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road to a competent contractor, and ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated contract duration and to the required standards;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to make adequate budgetary provisions for the Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road project in the 2024 Budget estimates;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ishaya David Lalu — Bokkos/Manga Federal Constituency and 2 Others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i), and *insert* as follows:
“mandate the Committee on Works to verify the cause of abandonment and the status of the project” (*Hon. Muhammed Muktar — Kazaure/Roni/Gwiwa/Yankwashi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv), as follows:
“mandate the Committee on Appropriations to make provision of adequate fund for the completion of Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road project in 2024 budget” (*Hon. David Lalu Ishaya — Bokkos/Manga Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the deplorable State of the Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road, which has remained in a state of disrepair for more than 10 years, causing untold hardship to the people of the area;

Also noted that contract for the construction of the road was awarded, but the project has been abandoned as the contractor failed to adhere to some terms and conditions of the contract;

Cognizant of the need to re-award the contract for completion of the road project to a competent contractor who will complete the job within the stipulated deadline and up to the required standards;

Also cognizant that the road, if completed, will ease the movement of goods from the area to other parts of the country as it is the shortest route connecting the North-Central and the North-East geopolitical zones;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Works to verify the cause of abandonment and the status of the project;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to make adequate budgetary provisions for the Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road project in the 2024 Budget estimates;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to ensure compliance;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Appropriation to make provision of adequate fund for the completion of Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road project in 2024 budget (**HR. 203/10/2023**).

13. Need to Prioritize and implement the Provisions of the Mental Health Law 2021 to tackle suicide and suicidality in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the responsibility of the government is to protect and safeguard the lives of Nigerians as outlined by Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) provides that the security, safety, and welfare of the people of Nigeria shall be the primary purpose of the government;

Also notes that on 12 July, 2023, a teenager took her life after being raped in Oyo State, one out of many cases of suicide underreported and mostly unreported in Nigeria due to social stigmatization;

Recalls that *ThisDay* Newspapers reported an alarming rise in suicide deaths between 2022 and March 2023, It emphasizes that suicide is seen as a taboo in most parts of the country and hidden by families due to cultural factors;

Concerned that fresh cases of suicide as published in the print media have a greater proportion of youth as victims, in January 2023, Joseph Olona, a 300-level student at FUTA, and 50-year-old Ojo Ogundeji both committed suicide on January 14 and 23, respectively;

Worried that the risk factors for suicide such as mental health conditions, substance use, access to lethal means, prolonged stress, unemployment, financial crisis, and child abuse and neglect pose huge threats to Nigerians;

Disturbed that there has not been adequate sensitization of the provisions of the Act and guidelines on how people struggling with mental health problems can receive help;

Cognizant that the awareness campaigns should reduce stigma and ensure the acceptability of the regulations to protect the dignity of people struggling with mental health;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to collaborate with relevant Health Institutions to ensure that research on mental health is put into practice to ensure evidence-based care to Nigerian citizens;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to evaluate the implementation of the content of the Mental Health Act and conduct a needs assessment of the full implementation of the Act (*Hon. Uchenna Clement Nwachukwu. E — Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new Prayer (iii), as follows:*
“mandate the Committee on Health Specialty Care and Services to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Health and relevant Institutions on establishing Mental Health Rehabilitation Centres within the Primary Health Care Centres across the Federal Constituencies in Nigeria” (*Hon. Uchenna Harris Okonkwo — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (iv), as follows:*
“urge the Ministry of Health and National Orientation Agency to collaborate in establishing National Counselling Centre in the country” (*Hon. Chinedu Emeka Martins — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezenihitte Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the responsibility of the government is to protect and safeguard the lives of Nigerians as outlined by Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) provides that the security, safety, and welfare of the people of Nigeria shall be the primary purpose of the government;

Also noted that on 12 July, 2023, a teenager took her life after being raped in Oyo State, one out of many cases of suicide under-reported and mostly unreported in Nigeria due to social stigmatization;

Recalled that *ThisDay* Newspapers reported an alarming rise in suicide deaths between 2022 and March 2023, It emphasizes that suicide is seen as a taboo in most parts of the country and hidden by families due to cultural factors;

Concerned that fresh cases of suicide as published in the print media have a greater proportion of youth as victims, in January 2023, Joseph Olona, a 300-level student at FUTA, and 50-year-old Ojo Ogundeji both committed suicide on January 14 and 23, respectively;

Worried that the risk factors for suicide such as mental health conditions, substance use, access to lethal means, prolonged stress, unemployment, financial crisis, and child abuse and neglect pose huge threats to Nigerians;

Disturbed that there has not been adequate sensitization of the provisions of the Act and guidelines on how people struggling with mental health problems can receive help;

Cognizant that the awareness campaigns should reduce stigma and ensure the acceptability of the regulations to protect the dignity of people struggling with mental health;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to collaborate with relevant Health Institutions to ensure that research on mental health is put into practice to ensure evidence-based care to Nigerian citizens;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Health and National Orientation Agency to collaborate in establishing National Counselling Centre in the country;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Health Specialty Care and Services to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Health and relevant Institutions on establishing Mental Health Rehabilitation Centres within the Primary Health Care Centres across the Federal Constituencies in Nigeria;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to evaluate the implementation of the content of the Mental Health Act and conduct a needs assessment of the full implementation of the Act (**HR. 204/10/2023**),

14. Need to Address the worsening Insecurity in Dandume Local Government Area and its environs in Funtua/Dandume Federal Constituency of Katsina State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the state of Insecurity in Dandume Local Government Area and its environs has assumed a worrisome dimension.

Also notes that the said Local Government Area has become a haven for Bandits, Armed Robbers, Kidnappers, Cattle Rustlers and all other types of criminal elements in recent times.

Aware of the reoccurring insecurity challenges in the area has led to loss of lives, kidnappings and the dispossession of properties owned by the locals has assumed an alarming stage;

Concerned that many rural dwellers have been displaced on account of this onslaughts, while agricultural activities have been paralyzed leading to economic loss to Katsina State, and the nation at large.

Worried that the number of out of School Children has significantly increased as Schools are frequently attacked and, Students kidnapped thus creating fear amongst Parents who prefer their children to stay at home;

Also worried that several villagers in the local government now live in fear due to displacement of their valuable properties worth hundreds of millions in Naira;

Cognizant of the need for immediate Government intervention to curb insecurity in the area and proffer lasting solution to the problem;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff and the Inspector General of Police to deploy more security personnel to intensify the security architecture in Dandume Local Government Area;
- (ii) also urge the Chief of Army Staff to establish an operational unit for rapid response in the Area;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected communities within the Local Government Area; and

- (iv) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abubakar Ahmad Muhammad — Funtua/Dandume Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “Government Area”, insert the words “Dutsin-Ma Local Government Area” (*Hon. Aminu Balele — Dutsin-Ma/Kurfi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) Insert a new Prayer (v), as follows:
“urge the Federal Government to provide more coordinated security for farmers in order to harvest their farm produce”, insert the words “Dutsin-Ma Local Government Area” (*Hon. Aminu Balele — Dutsin-Ma/Kurfi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) Insert a new Prayer (vi), as follows:
“urge the Federal Government to move security personnel to the 22 front line communities in Katsina Central and 4 in Katsina North” (*Hon. Yusuf Majigiri — Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the state of Insecurity in Dandume Local Government Area and its environs has assumed a worrisome dimension.

Also noted that the said Local Government Area has become a haven for Bandits, Armed Robbers, Kidnappers, Cattle Rustlers and all other types of criminal elements in recent times.

Aware of the reoccurring insecurity challenges in the area has led to loss of lives, kidnappings and the dispossession of properties owned by the locals has assumed an alarming stage;

Concerned that many rural dwellers have been displaced on account of this onslaughts, while agricultural activities have been paralyzed leading to economic loss to Katsina State, and the nation at large.

Worried that the number of out of School Children has significantly increased as Schools are frequently attacked and, Students kidnapped thus creating fear amongst Parents who prefer their children to stay at home;

Also worried that several villagers in the local government now live in fear due to displacement of their valuable properties worth hundreds of millions in Naira;

Cognizant of the need for immediate Government intervention to curb insecurity in the area and proffer lasting solution to the problem;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff and the Inspector General of Police to deploy more security personnel to intensify the security architecture in Dandume Local Government Area, and Dutsin-Ma Local Government Area;

- (ii) also urge the Chief of Army Staff to establish an operational unit for rapid response in the Area;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected communities within the Local Government Area;
- (iv) still urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide more coordinated security for farmers in order to harvest their farm produce”, insert the words “Dutsin-Ma Local Government Area;
- (v) again urge the Executive Arm of Government to move security personnel to the 22 front line communities in Katsina Central and 4 in Katsina North; and
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 205/10/2023**).

15. Need to Increase Monthly Allowance of National Youth Corps Members To Reflect the Current Economic Reality of the Nation

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. Call on the President to Revisit the Oransanye's Report

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. Need to Grant License to the Niger State Government as a Mineral buying Centre

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes Section 95 of the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act (the Act) provides for the establishment of Mineral Buying Centres (Buying Centre) to serve as standardization centres to enable artisanal and small miners' cooperatives and operators to receive fair premiums for their labour as they concentrate on production;

Also notes that by section 96 of the Act and regulation 232 of the Nigerian Mineral and Mining Regulation, 2011, the Minister of Mines and Steel Development and the Mining Cadastre Officer are to determine the qualification for entities to register as Mineral Buying Centres;

Further notes that as provided by the Act and regulation, one of the criteria for registration as a buying Centre is that the entity seeking registration must register with the Corporate Affairs Commission;

Aware that the Federal Government in 2016 stated that it had started ceding buying Centres to state governments in a bid to reduce friction between the two tiers of government on mining activities;

Also aware that Niger State is heavily endowed with natural resources in different locations as follows:

- (a) Gold: Minna, Kafin-Koro, Kontagora, Bida and New-Bussa Chachaga, Mariga, Paikoro, Bida & Borgu;
- (b) Clay: Enagi, Rafi, Badeggi, Tatiko, Agwara, Borgu, Suleja and Mokwa. Edati, Bida, Suleja and Mokwa;

- (c) Silica and Sand: Suleja, Bida and Mokwa Suleja, Bida and Mokwa;
- (d) Kynaites: South -West of Minna Minna;
- (e) Marble: Minna Hill and Kwakuti Minna and Paiko;
- (f) Copper, Iron, Felspar and Lead Spread all over the State in all LGA;
- (g) Kaolin Agaie, Bida, Lemu, Mokwa & Kutigi Agaie, Bida, Gbako, Mokwa & Kutigi;
- (h) Cassertrite New-Bussa Borgu;
- (i) Columbite New-Bussa Borgu;
- (j) Tantalite New-Bussa Borgu;
- (k) Limestone Lapai, Konkoso, Swashi and Mokwa Agaie, Borgu, Lapai, Mokwa;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Mining Cadastre Office under the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development to grant a licence to the Niger State Government as a Mineral Buying Centre due to the presence of minerals in the State;
- (ii) invite the Director General of the Mining Cadastre Office to brief the Committee on Commerce on the numbers of Licensed Buying Centre including a list of similar Licenses previously issued to State Governments;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Solid Minerals Development to ensure compliance (*Hon. Joshua Audu Gana — Lavun/Mokwa/Edati Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.

18. Need to Investigate the Service and Unprecedented Environmental Damage within Oil Producing Communities

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria is ranked as the 15th major oil producing nation, with an average production of almost 2 million barrels per day and is reputed to be a Gas bed;

Also notes that many oil wells in Bayelsa State are depleted and are no more commercially viable, which accounts for the sale of lots of old upstream assets by International Oil and Gas Companies to local players;

Aware that international global best practice requires that all depleted and commercially non-viable oil well platforms be decommissioned to prevent environmental hazards or interference with other maritime activities;

Also aware that Section 232 of the Petroleum Industry Act provides that at the end of their exploration activities, oil producing companies should ensure that the environment is returned to its original state by decommissioning and disposing non-viable platforms;

Further aware that Section 233 of the Petroleum Industry Act provides for establishment of a Fund for the mitigation of negative environmental impacts associated with decommissioning or abandonment of oil and gas fields and assets;

Concerned that local and foreign Oil and Gas Companies have persistently disregarded extant laws by abandoning non-viable platforms and facilities at their operational bases without following the standard practices, thereby posing great risks to the host communities, as the emission of poisonous gases from abandoned facilities are resulting to unexplainable ailments and terminal diseases amongst the people;

Also concerned that the abandoned facilities are impeding water transportation causing unimaginable dangers to farers;

Worried that the relevant regulatory bodies are not taking any serious steps to set things right, while members of the host communities are suffering life threatening hardship as a result of negligence from the parties involved;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to investigate the environmental damage in oil producing communities caused by non-compliance of extant laws by oil producing companies (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream)”, *insert* the words “Climate Change,” (*Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (i), as amended, immediately after the word “Climate Change”, *insert* the words “Host Community” (*Hon. Umar Shehu Ajilo — Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (i), as amended, immediately after the word “Committee on”, *insert* the words “Environment” (*Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbafwi — Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria is ranked as the 15th major oil producing nation, with an average production of almost 2 million barrels per day and is reputed to be a Gas bed;

Also noted that many oil wells in Bayelsa State are depleted and are no more commercially viable, which accounts for the sale of lots of old upstream assets by International Oil and Gas Companies to local players;

Aware that international global best practice requires that all depleted and commercially non-viable oil well platforms be decommissioned to prevent environmental hazards or interference with other maritime activities;

Also aware that Section 232 of the Petroleum Industry Act provides that at the end of their exploration activities, oil producing companies should ensure that the environment is returned to its original state by decommissioning and disposing non-viable platforms;

Further aware that Section 233 of the Petroleum Industry Act provides for establishment of a Fund for the mitigation of negative environmental impacts associated with decommissioning or abandonment of oil and gas fields and assets;

Concerned that local and foreign Oil and Gas Companies have persistently disregarded extant laws by abandoning non-viable platforms and facilities at their operational bases without following the standard practices, thereby posing great risks to the host communities, as the emission of poisonous gases from abandoned facilities are resulting to unexplainable ailments and terminal diseases amongst the people;

Also concerned that the abandoned facilities are impeding water transportation causing unimaginable dangers to farers;

Worried that the relevant regulatory bodies are not taking any serious steps to set things right, while members of the host communities are suffering life threatening hardship as a result of negligence from the parties involved;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Environment, Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Climate Change, to investigate the environmental damage in oil producing communities caused by non-compliance of extant laws by oil producing companies (**HR. 206/10/2023**).

19. Need to Rehabilitate the Onitsha - Atani - Ossomalla - Ogwuikpele - Ndoni Road in Ogbaru Federal Constituency, Anambra State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Onitsha-Atani-Ossomalla-Ogwuikpele-Ndoni Road is the only road that connects the 15 communities in Ogbaru Local Government Area/Federal Constituency of Anambra state to the rest of the State, and is the shortest route to Rivers State from Anambra;

Concerned that the road is in deplorable condition, making commuting a grueling experience, which is made worse by the yearly flood disaster in the area;

Also concerned that the people of Ogbaru Federal Constituency, who are predominantly farmers, find it extremely difficult to transport their produce to different markets via the dilapidated road, thus impacting their contribution to the nation's food security;

Worried that this important road has become tortuous and treacherous to road users, leading to loss of lives, farm produce, properties and man hours;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to include completion of the Onitsha-Atani-Ossomalla-Ogwuikpele-Ndoni Road Project in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to, in the meantime, provide palliative measures on the road to ease transportation thereon;

- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Afam Victor Ogene — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 207/10/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

20. Need to Protect and Secure the Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat of Host Communities in the Niger Delta Region

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Niger Delta region with an estimated population of about 31 million and a land mass of about 70,000 km is a major hydrocarbon reserve;

Also notes that the ecology of the region consists of mangrove swamp freshwater swamps and lowland rainforests which provides fishing and farming livelihood options for over 90% of the inhabitant;

Further notes that this incredibly well-endowed ecosystem contains one of the highest concentrations of biodiversity on the planet, in addition to supporting abundant flora and fauna, arable terrain that can sustain a wide variety of crops, lumber or agricultural trees, and more species of freshwater fish than any ecosystem in west Africa;

Aware that the Niger Delta Basin produces around 2 million barrels of oil per day and the entire system is predicted to contain 34.5 billion barrels of oil and 94 trillion feet of natural gas;

Also aware that over 57 Companies are involved in hydrocarbon exploration and production activities in the Niger Delta region and the attendant pollution from their activities has made the Niger Delta to be regarded as one of the worst among similar delta areas in the world;

Further aware that the cases of pollution are exacerbated by colossal breaches of the pipelines with very weak integrity causing spills and also increasing incidences of unwholesome activities at the about 1000 abandoned well heads littered across the Niger Delta etc;

Alarmed that the livelihood of the people who are fishermen and farmers is under threat of extinction because of the toxicity of the terrestrial and aquatic habitats, thus making farming and fishing activities impossible;

Also alarmed at the high rates of crime in the region as residents are dejected and impoverished by the exploration and production of the rich hydrocarbon reserves in the Niger Delta;

Cognizant of the need to ensure inclusivity of the host communities in the hydrocarbon exploration and production value chain to enable them to derive economic benefits, particularly in the provisions of the Petroleum Industry Acts;

Determined to monitor and ensure the remediation and restoration of identified contaminated locations/communities to arrest the increasing depletion of sources of livelihood of the people

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Niger Delta Development Commission to protect and secure the Aquatic and

Terrestrial Habitat of Host Communities in the Niger Delta Region and ensure their inclusive in the operation and management of the hydrocarbon value chain;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Host Communities to ensure compliance and report within eight (8) weeks (*Hon. Philip Agbese — Ado/Ogbadigbo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Niger Delta region with an estimated population of about 31 million and a land mass of about 70,000 km is a major hydrocarbon reserve;

Also noted that the ecology of the region consists of mangrove swamp freshwater swamps and lowland rainforests which provides fishing and farming livelihood options for over 90% of the inhabitant;

Further notes that this incredibly well-endowed ecosystem contains one of the highest concentrations of biodiversity on the planet, in addition to supporting abundant flora and fauna, arable terrain that can sustain a wide variety of crops, lumber or agricultural trees, and more species of freshwater fish than any ecosystem in west Africa;

Aware that the Niger Delta Basin produces around 2 million barrels of oil per day and the entire system is predicted to contain 34.5 billion barrels of oil and 94 trillion feet of natural gas;

Also aware that over 57 Companies are involved in hydrocarbon exploration and production activities in the Niger Delta region and the attendant pollution from their activities has made the Niger Delta to be regarded as one of the worst among similar delta areas in the world;

Further aware that the cases of pollution are exacerbated by colossal breaches of the pipelines with very weak integrity causing spills and also increasing incidences of unwholesome activities at the about 1000 abandoned well heads littered across the Niger Delta etc;

Alarmed that the livelihood of the people who are fishermen and farmers is under threat of extinction because of the toxicity of the terrestrial and aquatic habitats, thus making farming and fishing activities impossible;

Also alarmed at the high rates of crime in the region as residents are dejected and impoverished by the exploration and production of the rich hydrocarbon reserves in the Niger Delta;

Cognizant of the need to ensure inclusivity of the host communities in the hydrocarbon exploration and production value chain to enable them to derive economic benefits, particularly in the provisions of the Petroleum Industry Acts;

Determined to monitor and ensure the remediation and restoration of identified contaminated locations/communities to arrest the increasing depletion of sources of livelihood of the people

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Niger Delta Development Commission to protect and secure the Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat of Host Communities in the Niger Delta Region and ensure their inclusive in the operation and management of the hydrocarbon value chain;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Host Communities to ensure compliance and report within eight (8) weeks (**HR. 207/10/2023**).

21. Need to Investigate the Indiscriminate Issuance of "Certificate of No Objection" by the Bureau of Public Procurement and Non-compliance with Mandatory Post-Procurement Audit
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that by the Provisions of the Sections 6 (1) (c) and 16 (1) (b) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) is authorized to issue a certificate of no objection to contracts awarded by relevant procurement entity;

Also notes that the powers vested in the Bureau of Public Procurement are aimed at ensuring that the letters and spirit of the Public Procurement Act are complied with, the government gets value for money, contracts awarded are within relevant thresholds backed by budgetary allocation;

Further notes that the Bureau of Public Procurement has failed to comply with the mandatory post-procurement audit as required by Section 5 (p) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007;

Observes that the Bureau has consistently engaged in under-hand dealings in the grant of "certificate of no objection" thus abusing the power to make pecuniary gains and increasing incidences of abandoned and failed projects across the country;

Also observes that such gross abuses and violation of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 has been exasperated by the recent increase in arbitrary nomination to procuring entities of winners for tendering processes and where the procuring entity declines, the process is interjected and frustrated in bad faith and for flimsy reasons;

Worried that if urgent steps are not taken to investigate the allegations and address any proven infractions, the Bureau of Public Procurement is likely to transform itself from a regulator to a disruptor and eventually endanger the entire public procurement system,

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Public Procurement to investigate the above allegations and report within six (6) weeks; and
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Public Procurement to consider the Biannual reports submitted in the last six years and make their findings known to the Public (*Hon. Peter Akpanke — Obanliku/Obudu/Bekwara Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that by the Provisions of the Sections 6 (1) (c) and 16 (1) (b) of the Public Procurement Act 2007, the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) is authorized to issue a certificate of no objection to contracts awarded by relevant procurement entity;

Also noted that the powers vested in the Bureau of Public Procurement are aimed at ensuring that the letters and spirit of the Public Procurement Act are complied with, the government gets value for money, contracts awarded are within relevant thresholds backed by budgetary allocation;

Further noted that the Bureau of Public Procurement has failed to comply with the mandatory post-procurement audit as required by Section 5 (p) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007;

Observed that the Bureau has consistently engaged in under-hand dealings in the grant of "certificate of no objection" thus abusing the power to make pecuniary gains and increasing incidences of abandoned and failed projects across the country;

Also observed that such gross abuses and violation of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 has been exasperated by the recent increase in arbitrary nomination to procuring entities of winners for tendering processes and where the procuring entity declines, the process is interjected and frustrated in bad faith and for flimsy reasons;

Worried that if urgent steps are not taken to investigate the allegations and address any proven infractions, the Bureau of Public Procurement is likely to transform itself from a regulator to a disruptor and eventually endanger the entire public procurement system,

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Public Procurement to investigate the above allegations and report within six (6) weeks; and
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Public Procurement to consider the Biannual reports submitted in the last six years and make their findings known to the Public (**HR. 208/10/2023**).

22. Need for Reconstruction of Lagos-Sango-Abeokuta Expressway

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Lagos - Sango-Abeokuta Expressway is the only road that connects Ogun State and Ikeja parts of Nigeria;

Also notes that the deplorable condition of the road calls for the Federal Government's intervention as road users spend 5-7 hours in gridlock daily;

Further notes that the reconstruction of the road was awarded to Julius Berger Nigeria and Reynolds Construction Company Limited at the cost of ₦22,000,000,000.00 since 2018 and no tangible work has been done on the road for the past six years;

Aware that the road has not witnessed any rehabilitation as commuters and heavy-duty vehicular find it difficult from Abeokuta to Lagos to ply the road resulting in the loss goods daily basis;

Also aware that section 1 of the Federal Highways Act empowered the Minister, Federal Ministry of Works to carry out reconstruction and maintenance of Federal roads;

Concerned that with the deep potholes and gully erosion ravaging the road caused by torrential rainfalls, it has not only become a death trap for commuters and residents of adjoining communities but also a breeding ground for robbery and other criminal activities;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to resume work and complete the construction of the Sango-Ifo-Abeokuta Expressway; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to investigate the cause of abandonment of work on the road and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Lagos - Sango-Abeokuta Expressway is the only road that connects Ogun State and Ikeja parts of Nigeria;

Also noted that the deplorable condition of the road calls for the Federal Government's intervention as road users spend 5-7 hours in gridlock daily;

Further noted that the reconstruction of the road was awarded to Julius Berger Nigeria and Reynolds Construction Company Limited at the cost of ₦22,000,000,000.00 since 2018 and no tangible work has been done on the road for the past six years;

Aware that the road has not witnessed any rehabilitation as commuters and heavy-duty vehicular find it difficult from Abeokuta to Lagos to ply the road resulting in the loss goods daily basis;

Also aware that section 1 of the Federal Highways Act empowered the Minister, Federal Ministry of Works to carry out reconstruction and maintenance of Federal roads;

Concerned that with the deep potholes and gully erosion ravaging the road caused by torrential rainfalls, it has not only become a death trap for commuters and residents of adjoining communities but also a breeding ground for robbery and other criminal activities;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to resume work and complete the construction of the Sango-Ifo-Abeokuta Expressway; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to investigate the cause of abandonment of work on the road and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 209/10/2023**).

23. Consideration of Reports

- (i) *A Bill for an Act to Amend Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Rano Kano State and for Related Matters (HB.91) (Committee of the Whole): Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Rano Kano State and for Related Matters (HB.91)" (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 TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES ACT
TO ESTABLISH FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, RANO, KANO STATE;
AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.91)

Clause 1: Amendment of the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2023.

The Federal Medical Centres Act, 2023 (hereinafter called "the Principal Act" is

amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo 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, Rano, Kano State" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo 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, 2023 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Rano, Kano State (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Rano, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB.91) (*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 Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Rano, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB.91) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, approved the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (ii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education, Bende to Provide full-time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management and to carry out Research in the Development and Adaptation of Techniques; and also make Provision for the Appointment of a Provost and the Officials of the College to carry out the Administration and the Discipline of Students of the College and for Related Matters, 2021 (HB. 125) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education, Bende to Provide full-time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management and to carry out Research in the Development and Adaptation of Techniques; and also make Provision for the Appointment of a Provost and the Officials of the College to carry out the Administration and the Discipline of Students of the College and for Related Matters, 2021 (HB. 125)" (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 ESTABLISH THE FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, BENDE TO PROVIDE FULL-TIME COURSES, TEACHING, INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING IN TECHNOLOGY, APPLIED SCIENCES, COMMERCE, ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES AND MANAGEMENT AND TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTATION OF TECHNIQUES; AND ALSO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROVOST AND THE OFFICIALS OF THE COLLEGE TO CARRY OUT THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 125)

Clause 1: Establishment of the Federal College of Education, Bende.

- (1) There is hereby established the Federal College of Education, Bende (in this Bill referred to as "the College").
- (2) The College shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and common seal and shall have the power to acquire and dispose of interest in moveable and immovable properties.
- (3) The College may sue and be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Establishment of the Governing Council.

- (1) There is hereby established for the Federal College of Education, Bende Governing Council (in this Bill referred to as "the Governing Council").
- (2) The governance and direction of affairs of the College shall rest in the Governing Council.
- (3) The Governing Council shall have the responsibility to consider and approve the —
 - (a) programme of studies to be undertaken in the College;
 - (b) annual estimates of the College; and
 - (c) investment plan of the College.
- (4) The provision of the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the Governing Council as mentioned in this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Composition of the Governing Council.

The Governing Council, which shall be appointed by the President, shall consist of —

- (a) the Chairman;
- (b) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Education;
- (c) a representative of the University with the College is affiliated to for the purpose of moderation;
- (d) two representatives of the academic board of the College;
- (e) a representative of the National Commission for Colleges of Education; and
- (f) the Provost of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Tenure of office.

- (1) A member of the Council (other than the ex-officio members) shall hold office for a term of four years and subject to the provision of subsection (2) of this section, may be eligible for re-appointment for a further period of four years.
- (2) The office of a member appointed under section 3 of this Bill shall become vacant if —
 - (a) he resigns from office by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Minister; or
 - (b) the Minister is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the College for the person appointed to continue in office and notifies the member in writing to that effect (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Functions of the College.

The functions of the College shall be —

- (a) to provide full-time courses in teaching instruction and training in —
 - (i) technology, applied sciences, arts social science, humanities and management, and
 - (ii) such other fields of applied learning relevant to the developmental needs of Nigeria;
- (b) to conduct courses in Education for qualified teachers;
- (c) to arrange conferences, seminars and workshops relative to the functions of the College; and
- (d) to perform such other functions which, in the opinion of the Council, may serve to promote the objective of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 6: Powers of the Governing Council.

The Council shall have the power to —

- (a) hold examinations and grant National Certificate of Education (NCE), Diplomas, Professional Council Certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved and accredited by the National Commission for Colleges of Education;
- (b) hold examinations in Education for qualified teachers;
- (c) recruit staff and determine structure of such staff;
- (d) demand and receive from any student or any other person attending the College, for the purpose of construction, such fees as the Governing Council may with the prior approval of the Minister, from time to time determine;
- (e) hold public lectures and undertake printing, publishing and bookselling;
- (f) award fellowships, medals, prizes and other titles;
- (g) establish and maintain such schools and other teaching units within the College or extra-mural departments as the Governing Councils may from time to time determine;
- (h) erect, provide, equip and maintain such educational, recreational and residential facilities as the College may require;
- (i) create lectureships and other academic post and offices and to make appointments thereof;
- (j) receive and make gifts;
- (k) enter into such contracts as may be necessary or expedient for carrying into effect the objective of the College;
- (l) provide amenities for and make such other provisions for the welfare of the staff and students of the College;
- (m) encourage and make provisions for research in the College; and
- (n) do such acts and things whether or not incidental to the foregoing and as may advance the objects of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: The visitor of the College.

- (1) The Minister shall be the Visitor of the College.
- (2) The Visitor shall, not less than once in every 5 years, conduct a visitation to the College or appoint a visitation panel to consist of not less than 5 experts to conduct the visitation for —
 - (a) the purpose of evaluating the academic and administrative performance of the College; or

- (b) such other purpose as the Visitor may deem fit (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: The Academic Board of the College.

- (1) There shall be established for the College a board to be known as the Academic Board which shall consist of the following members —
 - (a) the Provost of the College as the Chairman;
 - (b) all heads of departments;
 - (c) the College Bursar;
 - (d) the College Librarian; and
 - (e) not more than 3 members of the academic staff other than the heads of departments to be appointed by the Governing Council.
- (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, scholarships, prizes and other academic distinction; and
 - (b) discharging any other function which the Governing Council may from time to time delegate to it (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Direction.

The Minister may give to the Governing Council directions of general character relating generally to matters with regard to the exercise by the Council of its functions and it shall be the duty of the Governing Council to comply with such directions (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 10: The Provost of the College.

- (1) There shall be a Provost for the College (in this Bill referred to as "the Provost") who shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the post of the Provost, the Governing Council shall advertise the vacancy in reputable widely read newspapers in Nigeria specifying the —
 - (a) qualities of the person who may apply for the post; and
 - (b) terms and condition of service applicable to the post and thereafter draw up a short list of suitable candidates for consideration of the Minister.
- (3) The President shall appoint as Provost one of the candidates recommended by the Minister.

- (4) Subject to the general control of the Governing Council the Provost shall be the chief executive of the College and shall be charged with general responsibility for matters relating to the day-to-day management and operations of the College.
- (5) The Provost shall hold office for a period of 5 years only and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Deputy Provosts.

- (1) There shall be for the College 2 Deputy Provosts namely —
 - (a) Deputy Provost (Academics); and
 - (b) Deputy Provost (Administration).
- (2) The Governing Council shall appoint the Deputy Provosts from among the chief lecturers in the College in any of the following ways, that is —
 - (a) from a list of 5 candidates in order of preference, submitted by the Provost;
 - (b) on the recommendation of a Selection Board constituted for the purpose; or
 - (c) on the nomination of the provost.
- (3) The Deputy Provost (Academics) shall —
 - (a) assist the Provost in the performance of his functions in academic matters of the College; and
 - (b) act as the Provost when the post of the Provost is vacant or if the Provost is, for any reason, absent or unable to perform his functions.
- (4) The Deputy Provost (Administration) shall —
 - (a) assist the Provost in administrative matters of the College; and
 - (b) perform such other functions as the Provost or the Governing Council may from time to time assign to him.
- (5) Each of the Deputy Provosts shall hold office for a period of 2 years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Registrar of the College.

- (1) There shall be a Registrar for the College to be appointed by the Governing Council.
- (2) The Registrar shall keep the records and conduct the correspondence of the Council.

- (3) The Registrar shall be the Secretary to —
 - (a) the Governing Council;
 - (b) the Academic Board; and
 - (c) any Committee of the Governing Council.
- (4) The Registrar may perform any duty as may be assigned to him by the Governing Council or the Provost.
- (5) The Registrar shall hold office for a period of 5 years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 13: Bursar and Librarian of the College.

- (1) There shall be for the College in addition to the Registrar, the —
 - (a) Bursar; and
 - (b) College Librarian,who shall be appointed by the Governing Council.
- (2) The Bursar shall be the chief financial officer of the College and 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 coordination of the library services in the teaching units of the College.
- (4) The Bursar and the College Librarian shall each hold office for a period of 5 years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Resignation of principal officers.

A Principal Officer of the College may resign his appointment —

- (a) in the case of the Provost, by notice to the Visitor; and
- (b) in any other case, by notice to the Governing Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Other employees of the College.

- (1) The Governing Council may appoint other persons to be employees of the College as it may deem fit to assist the Provost and the Principal Officers in the performance of their functions.
- (2) The remuneration, tenure of office and condition of service of the employees of the College shall be determined by the Governing Council in consultation with the Federal Civil Service Commission (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 16: Pension.

Service in the College shall be approved service for the purpose of the Pension Reform Act and accordingly, officers and other persons employed in the College shall be entitled to pensions, gratuity and other retirement benefit as may be prescribed in their respective letters of appointment (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 17: Selection board.

- (1) There shall be a Selection Board for the College which shall consist of —
 - (a) the Chairman of the Governing Council;
 - (b) the Provost of the College;
 - (c) members of the Governing Council not being members of the Academic Board; and
 - (d) members of the Academic Board.
- (2) The functions, procedure and other matters relating to the Selection Board constituted under subsection (1) of this section shall be determined from time to time by the Governing Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 18: Fund of the College.

- (1) The College shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be applied towards the promotion of the objective of this Bill.
- (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established under subsection (1) of this section —
 - (a) such sums as may from time to time be granted by the Federal Government;
 - (b) all monies raised by the Governing Council by way of gifts, grants-in-aid and monetary disposition; and
 - (c) all subscription, fee and charges for services rendered by the College and all other sums that may accrue to the College from any source.
- (3) The Governing Council shall submit to the Minister, through the National Commission for Colleges of Education 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 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 19: Power to accept gifts.

- (1) The College may accept gifts, money or of other property and upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person making the gifts.
- (2) The College shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached to the gifts are inconsistent with the functions of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 20: Accounts and audit.

The College shall keep proper accounts of its receipt, payments, assets and liabilities and shall in respect of each year cause the account to be audited (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 21: Annual reports.

The Governing 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 immediate preceding financial year and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the College for that year and of the auditor's report of the accounts (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 22: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Governing Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"College" means the Federal College of Education, Bende established under section (1) of this Bill (*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.

"Council" means the Governing Council of the College established under section 2 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Function" includes power and duties (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Function" 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.

"Member" means a member of the Governing Council including the Chairman (*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.

"Provost" means the Provost of the College established under section 10 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

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

Clause 23: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal College of Education, Bende (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION RELATING TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, ETC.

Terms of Service

1. There may be paid to the members of the Governing Council or any committee, other than *ex-officio* members, such remuneration and allowances as may from time to time be determined by the President.
2. Where a vacancy occurs in respect of the membership specified in section 3, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor in office and such successor shall represent the same interest as his predecessor.
3. The Governing Council may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership or any defect in the appointment of a member or the absence of a member.

Proceedings

4.
 - (1) The Governing Council shall meet for the conduct of business at such times, places and on such days as the Chairman may appoint but shall meet not less than once every four months.
 - (2) The Chairman may at any time and shall at the request in writing of not less than six members, convene a meeting of the Governing Council.
 - (3) Where the Governing Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, the council may co-opt persons who are not members of the Governing Council but person co-opted shall not be entitled to vote at a meeting of the Governing Council.
 - (4) The Quorum of the Governing Council shall be one half of the total members of the

Governing Council, at least one of whom shall be a member appointed by the President.

- (5) Decisions of the Governing Council shall be made on approval by a simple majority of members.

Miscellaneous

5. (1) The fixing of the seal of the College shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman, Provost and of some other members of the Governing Council authorized generally or specially by the Governing Council to act for that purpose.
- (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person other than a body corporate would not be required to be under seal may be made executed on behalf of the College by any person generally specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Governing Council.
- (3) Any document purporting to be duly executed under the seal of the College shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed (*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 provide for the establishment of the Federal College of Education, Bende as an institute to offer full-time courses leading to the awards of National Certificate of Education, Diplomas, etc. (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act Establish the Federal College of Education, Bende to Provide Full-Time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management and to Carry Out Research in the Development and Adaptation of Techniques; and Also Make Provision for the Appointment of A Provost and the Officials of the College to Carry Out the Administration and the Discipline of Students of the College; and for Related Matters (HB. 125) (*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 Establish the Federal College of Education, Bende to Provide full-time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management and to carry out Research in the Development and Adaptation of Techniques; and also make Provision for the Appointment of a Provost and the Officials of the College to carry out the Administration and the Discipline of Students of the College and for Related Matters, 2021 (HB. 125) and approved Clauses 1 - 23, approved 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.

- (iii) ***A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Oaths Act, Cap. 01, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Oaths Act, 2023 to take cognisance of Technological Advancements and make provisions for Digital and Electronic means of Administering Oaths and Affirmations in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.122) (Committee of the Whole):***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Oaths Act, Cap. 01, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Oaths Act, 2023 to take cognisance of Technological Advancements and make provisions for Digital and Electronic means of Administering Oaths and Affirmations in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.122)” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE OATHS ACT, CAP. 01,
LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND ENACT THE
OATHS BILL, 2023 TO TAKE COGNISANCE OF TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCEMENTS AND MAKE PROVISIONS FOR DIGITAL AND
ELECTRONIC MEANS OF ADMINISTERING OATHS AND
AFFIRMATIONS IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Clause 1: Oaths to be taken. Schedule.

The oaths to be taken as occasion demands shall be the Oaths set out in the Schedule to this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Officers to take Oaths. Schedule.

A person appointed to an office under this Bill shall take the oath specified in the first column of the Schedule to this Bill which shall be administered by the authority prescribed in this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Unnecessary repetition of Oath.

- (1) Except in the case of the President, a person who has duly taken the Oath of Allegiance or the Judicial Oath in Nigeria as provided in this Bill shall not be required again to take that oath on appointment to any other office or on any other occasion.
- (2) A person appointed to act in any office or capacity in the place of any officer or person, shall not be required to take any oath on the occasion of such appointment, unless the oath required to be taken in respect of such appointment is different from or in addition to any oath duly taken by him in respect of any other appointment, permanent or temporary.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), a person holding an office or position specified in the second column of the Schedule to this Bill shall, on or as soon as reasonable, after 1 October, 1963 take the Oaths prescribed for that office in the first column of the Schedule (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Omission or irregularity as to Oath.

- (1) Nothing in this Bill shall render or be deemed to have rendered invalid any act done or which may be done by a public officer in the execution or intended execution of his official duties, by reason only of the omission by the public officer to take any Oath or to make any affirmation which the officer should take or should have taken or should make or should have made:

Provided that any person who declines, neglects, or omits to take the required oath or make the required affirmation under this Bill shall, if he has —

- (a) already entered on his office, be deemed to have vacated that office from the date of refusal; and
- (b) not already entered on his office, be disqualified from entering on the same.
- (2) No irregularity in the form in which an oath or affirmation is administered or taken shall —
- (a) invalidate the discharge of official duties;
- (b) invalidate proceedings in any court; or
- (c) render inadmissible evidence in or in respect of which an irregularity took place in any proceedings.
- (3) The failure to take an oath or make an affirmation, and any irregularity as to the form of oath or affirmation shall in no case be construed to affect the liability of a witness to state the truth (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Form and manner in which Oaths may be taken.

- (1) Whenever an oath is required to be taken under the provisions of this Bill or any other Act, or in order to comply with the requirements of any law in effect for the time being in Nigeria, or any other country, the following provisions shall apply

- (a) the person taking the oath may do so in the form and manner following, that is to say, he shall if a —

- (i) Muslim, place both hands on a copy of the Quran,
- (ii) Christian, hold in his right hand a copy of the Holy Bible or of the New Testament,
- (iii) Jew, hold in his uplifted hand a copy of the Old Testament,

and shall say or repeat after the person administering the oath the words prescribed by law or by the practice of the court, as the case may be;

- (b) in any other manner which is lawful according to any law, customary or otherwise, in effect in Nigeria.
- (2) Where any person taking an oath is physically incapable of taking the oath as provided in the foregoing subsection, he may touch or hold such copy otherwise, or if necessary, such copy may be held before him by the person administering the oath.
- (3) In furtherance to subsection (1) of this Bill, it shall suffice for such a person to take the Oath via digital or electronic means.
- (4) Where a person is administered an Oath via digital or electronic means, it shall be deemed as sufficient as though the person was present before the relevant authority administering the oath as provided for in section 10 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Amendment Proposed:

In subclause (1) (a) (i), *leave out* the words “Muslim, place both hands” and *insert* the words “Muslim, holds a copy of the Holy Quran with his or her right hand” (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 6: Place and date of Oath.

- (1) Every commissioner for oaths or notary public before whom any oath or affidavit is taken or made under this Bill shall state truly in the jurat or attestation at which place and on what date the oath or affidavit is taken or made.
- (2) Where an oath is administered in accordance with section 5 (3) of this Bill, the relevant authority administering the oath as provided for in section 10 of this Bill before whom the oath is taken under this Bill, would be required to state the technology used to administer the oath and the date it is taken or made.
- (3) Where a rule of oath taking requires a signature or provides for certain consequences if an oath under this Bill is not signed by the deponent, an electronic signature satisfies that rule or avoids those consequences.
- (4) For the purpose of subsections (2) and (3), the relevant authority administering the oath as provided for in section 10 of this Bill may authenticate same by such electronic signature or electric authentication technique which is considered reliable, provided that —
 - (a) the signature creation data or the authentication data are, within the context in which they are used, linked to the signatory or, as the case may be, the authenticator and of no other person;
 - (b) any alteration to the electronic signature made after affixing such signature is detectable;
 - (c) any alteration to the information made after its authentication by electronic signature is detectable; and

- (d) the digital signature and seal of the administering authority and the means of authentication accompanies same.
- (5) For the purpose of subsection (3), electronic signature shall be deemed to be secure if the signature creation data —
 - (a) at the time of affixing signature, was under the exclusive control of signatory and no other person; and
 - (b) was stored and affixed in such exclusive manner as may be prescribed (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: Absence of religious beliefs.

Where an oath has been duly administered and taken the fact that the person to whom the oath was administered had, at the time of taking the oath, no religious belief, shall not for any purpose affect the validity of the oath (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: Affirmation.

A person who objects to the taking of an oath and desires to make an affirmation in lieu thereof, may do so without being questioned as to the grounds of such objection or desire, or otherwise, and in any such case the form of the required oath shall be varied by the substitution for the words or swearing, the words, "I solemnly, sincerely, and truthfully affirm that "; and such other consequential variations of form as may be necessary shall be made (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Persons under age.

Anything to the contrary in this Bill notwithstanding, if it appears to a court or officer before whom an oath other than a promissory oath is to be taken or affirmation other than a promissory affirmation is to be made, that the person about to take the oath or make the affirmation ought not, by reason of immature age or for any other sufficient cause, to be allowed to take the oath or make the affirmation as aforesaid, the court or officer shall, in their free discretion so think fit, allow such person, in lieu of taking the oath or making the affirmation, to give evidence or make a declaration without oath or affirmation and in any such case the court or officer shall enter in the minutes of the proceedings or on the instrument or document concerned, as the case may be, a note of the fact of the evidence or declaration having been given or made without oath or affirmation, and of the reasons therefore:

Provided that, if any person declining or objecting to take an oath is, in the opinion of the court or officer as the case may be, competent to make an affirmation, such person shall, on the court or officer so directing him, thereupon make an affirmation as provided by section 8 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 10: Authority to administer Oaths. Schedule.

- (1) The Chief Justice of Nigeria, a Justice of the Supreme Court, the President

and Justices of the Court of Appeal and any judge of the Federal High Court, a notary public, and any commissioner for oaths, shall administer any lawful oath or take any lawful affirmation or affidavit which may be required to be taken or made for the purpose of complying with the requirements of any law for the time being in effect throughout Nigeria or elsewhere, except where such procedure is expressly or by necessary implication manifestly excluded by the terms of such law as aforesaid and the presumption shall be against any such exclusion.

- (2) It shall be lawful for any of the persons mentioned in subsection (1) to take any declaration made in the form prescribed in the Schedule to this Bill in cases where an oath is or has been abolished by any enactment (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Taking Oaths out of Nigeria.

- (1) Any oath or affidavit required for any court or for the purposes of registration of an instrument may be taken or made in any place out of Nigeria before any person having authority to administer an oath in that place.
- (2) The provisions of subsection (1) shall apply to any declaration, or affirmation in lieu of oath or affidavit so taken or made.
- (3) In the case of a person having such authority by the law of a country other than Nigeria, judicial and official notice shall be taken of his seal or signature affixed, impressed or subscribed to or on any such oath, affidavit, declaration or affirmation.
- (4) In furtherance to subsection (1), where a person, who is required to take an oath or affidavit under the provisions of this Bill in any place out of Nigeria before any person having authority to administer an oath in that place, it shall suffice for such a person to take the oath via digital or electronic means.
- (5) Where an oath or affidavit is taken or made by audio-visual means, it shall be deemed as sufficient as though the person was present before those administering the oath as provided for in section 11 (1) of this Bill, provided the digital signature and seal of the administering authority and the means of authentication accompanies same (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Power of Nigerian officials abroad.

- (1) Every Nigerian official of the rank of secretary or above in a Nigerian Embassy or legation may in any country where he performs his functions, administer any oath and take any affidavit and also do any notarial act which a notary public can do within Nigeria.
- (2) Any oath, affidavit and notarial act administered, sworn or done by or, before any such person shall be as effectual as if duly administered, sworn or done by or before any lawful authority in any part of Nigeria.
- (3) Any document purporting to have affixed, impressed or subscribed on it the

seal or signature of any person authorised by this Bill to administer an oath in testimony of any oath, affidavit or act being administered, taken or done by or before him shall be admitted in evidence without proof of the seal or signature of that person, or of the official character of that person (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 13: Voluntary declarations. Schedule.

It shall be lawful for any commissioner for oaths, notary public or any other person authorised by this Bill to administer an oath, to take and receive the declaration of any person voluntarily making the same before him either physically or by audio-visual means in the form set out in the Schedule to this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Additional Oaths.

- (1) The President may in writing require the holder of any office to take or affirm the Judicial Oath or the Oath of Allegiance.
- (2) The President may by order published in the Federal Government Gazette amend the Schedule to this Bill, and may by the same or any other order provide that this Bill shall apply in relation to persons who are not citizens of Nigeria subject to such modifications as may be prescribed (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Effect of Oath of allegiance, etc., on persons not citizens of Nigeria.

- (1) Where a person not a citizen of Nigeria is, while in Nigeria, for any reason required to take the Oath of Allegiance of Nigeria or other oath relevant to his employment, the Oath of Allegiance shall, on the termination of his residence or stay in Nigeria cease to be binding on him but any other oath taken shall continue to have effect according to its tenor.
- (2) Nothing in this Bill shall be construed to the prejudice of the allegiance which any such person may owe irrespective of the taking of the Oath of Allegiance for the time being to Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 16: Miscellaneous.

No omission to take any Oath or make any affirmation, no substitution of anyone for any of them, and no irregularity whatever the form in which any of them is administered, shall invalidate any proceeding or render inadmissible any evidence whatever, in or in respect of which, such omission, substitution or irregularity took place or shall affect the obligation of a witness to the state to tell the truth (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 17: Repeal.

- (1) The Oaths Act 1963, Cap. N23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 is repealed.

- (2) Subject to the provisions of section 6 of the Interpretation Act, the repeal of the Act referred to in subsection (1) does not affect anything done or purported to have been done under it (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 18: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"Audio-visual communication" means being able to see, hear and communicate with another individual in real time, using electronic means (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Audio-visual communication" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Before me" means physically present before or virtually administered by the administering authority (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Electronic signature" means authentication of any electronic record by a subscriber by means of electronic technique and includes digital signature (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"In my presence" means physically present or virtual proceedings before the administering authority (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

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

Clause 19: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as Oaths Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SCHEDULE

Sections 1, 2, 3 (3), 10 (2), 13 and 14 (2)

I,do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

So help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

I, do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I will discharge my duties to the best of my ability, faithfully and in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the law, and always in the interest of the sovereignty, integrity, solidarity, well-being and prosperity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will strive to preserve the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decisions; that I will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will abide by the Code of Conduct contained in the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that in all circumstances, I will do right to all manner of people, according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will; that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person any matter which shall be brought under my consideration or shall become known to me as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, except as may be required for the due discharge of my duties as President; and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of Nigeria.

So help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT, MINISTER, OR SPECIAL ADVISER

I,do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that as Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria/Minister of the Government of the Federation/Special Adviser to, I will discharge my duties to the best of my ability, faithfully and in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Law, and always in the interest of the sovereignty, integrity, solidarity, well-being and prosperity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will strive to preserve the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decisions; that I will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will abide by the Code of Conduct contained in the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that in all circumstances, I will do right to all manner of people, according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will; that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person any matter which shall be brought under my consideration or shall become known to me as Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria/Minister of the Government of the Federation/Special Adviser to except as may be required for the discharge of my duties as Vice-President/Minister/Special Adviser.

So help me God.

JUDICIAL OATH

I,swear that in the service of my country in the office of

1. I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria at all times.
2. I will well and truly exercise the judicial functions entrusted to me and will do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as by law established and in accordance with the laws and usage of the Federal Republic of Nigeria without fear or favour, affection or ill-will
3. I will always place service to the nation above all selfish interests, realising that a public office is a public trust.

4. I will always perform my judicial duties diligently and efficiently and will not engage or be involved in any activity in conflict either directly or indirectly with this pledge.
5. I will, in the performance of my judicial duties, eschew corruption in all its facets.
6. I will always follow the path of justice, honesty and concord amongst all the people of Nigeria in all I do.

So help me God.

OFFICIAL OATH

I hereby solemnly declare, swear and pledge that in the service of my country:

1. I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria at all times.
2. I will not discriminate on the basis of religion, tribe, cult, or status or practise any form of partiality
3. I will always place service to the public above selfish interests, realising that a public office is a public trust.
4. I will always perform my official duties diligently and efficiently and will not engage or be involved in any activity in conflict either directly or indirectly with this pledge.
5. I will, in the performance of my official duties, eschew and expose corruption and will also not corrupt others or aid or abet corruption in any of its facets in and outside the public service.
6. I will always follow the path of justice, honesty and concord amongst all the people of Nigeria in all I do.

So help me God.

OATH OF SECRECY

I,swear that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal any matter to any person which shall be brought under my consideration or shall come to my knowledge in the discharge of my official duties except as may be required for the discharge of my official duties or as may be specially permitted by the President.

So help me God.

OATH OF OFFICER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION

I,being called upon to exercise the functions of to the Federal Executive Council of the Federation swear that I will not directly or indirectly reveal such matters as shall be debated in the Council and committed to my secrecy.

So help me God.

**OATH OF A SENATOR OR A MEMBER
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

I,swear that I will give faithful service to this National Assembly and support and uphold the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as by law established.

So help me God.

COURT PROCEEDINGS OATH OF ASSESSORS

I,swear by Almighty God that I will well and truly try the issue joined between the Federation of Nigeria and the prisoner at the bar and a true opinion give according to the evidence.

EVIDENCE OATH

I,do hereby swear by Almighty God that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

INTERPRETER'S OATH CIVIL

I,swear by Almighty God that I will well and faithfully interpret and explain to the court (or commission of) and the witnesses all such matters and things as shall be required of me to the best of my skill and understanding; and that I will truly translate or explain all documents entrusted to me for such purpose to the best of my ability, and, except as authorised by the court (commissioners), will not directly or indirectly reveal the contents of such documents as may be entrusted to me or the evidence given by witness which may have been interpreted by me.

CRIMINAL

I,swear by Almighty God that I will well and faithfully interpret and true explanation make between the court, the assessors, the witnesses and the prisoner at the bar according to the best of my skill and understanding.

SHORTHAND WRITERS

I, swear by Almighty God that I will to the best of my ability take down in shorthand the evidence and such other matters as shall be required of me and make a true and accurate transcript thereof (and that I will not without leave of the court (commission) divulge to any person the notes I shall take of the evidence that the witness shall give to the court (commission) touching matters in question).

VOIRE DIRE

I, swear by Almighty God that I shall true answer make to all such questions as the court (or as the case may be) shall demand.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, do solemnly and sincerely declare that (set out in numbered paragraphs if more than one matter) and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act.

FORM OF ATTESTATION

Declared at in this date
of, 20.....

Before me

.....
Commissioner for Oaths/Notary Public, etc.

OATH FOR AFFIDAVITS**FORM A**

I, do hereby solemnly swear by Almighty God that this is my name and handwriting and that the facts deposed by me in this affidavit are the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth

FORM B**BLIND OR ILLITERATE DEPONENT**

I, do hereby solemnly swear by Almighty God that the facts deposed by me in the affidavit are the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

FORM OF JURAT

(a) Where the Commissioner has read the affidavit to deponent

Sworn at..... inthis
..... day of before me;

I, having first truly, distinctly and audibly read over the contents of this affidavit to the deponent he being blind or illiterate and explained the nature and contents of the exhibits therein referred to in the language when he appeared perfectly to understand the same, and made his mark (or signature) thereto in my presence.

.....
Commissioner for Oaths

(b) Where a third person has read the affidavit to deponent

Sworn at inthis day
of, 20..... before me; and I certify that this affidavit was read over in my presence to the deponent he being blind or illiterate and the nature and contents of exhibits therein referred to explained to him in the language, when the deponent appeared perfectly to understand the same, and made his mark (or signature) thereto in my presence.

.....
Commissioner for Oaths

FORM C**DEPONENT PHYSICALLY INCAPABLE OF
TAKING THE OATH WITH UPLIFTED HAND**

A.B. is that your mark (*signature*)? You do swear by Almighty God that the contents of this your affidavit are true?

FORM OF JURAT

Sworn at in this day of before me; the deponent A.B. having made his mark to this affidavit in my presence, he being physically incapacitated from writing his name.

.....
Commissioner for Oaths

If the deponent is incapable of affixing any distinguishable mark whatever to the affidavit, the jurat should be as follows —

Sworn by the above-named deponent A.B. at in this day of without the deponent affixing thereto any mark or signature, he being physically incapable of so doing.

Before me

.....
Commissioner for Oaths

FORM D**INTERPRETER**

I swear by Almighty God that I well understand the English language and the languages and that I have truly distinctly and audibly interpreted the contents of this affidavit to the deponent in language and that I will truly interpret the oath about to be administered unto him/her.

FORM OF JURAT

Sworn at in this day of through the interpretation of of (address) the said having first been sworn that he had truly and faithfully interpreted the contents of this affidavit to the deponent and that he truly and faithfully interpreted the oath administered to him.

Before me

.....
Commissioner for Oaths

ARMED FORCES OATH

I, swear by Almighty God that in the service of my country —

1. I will be faithful and will bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Commander-in- Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria at all times.
2. I will truly and faithfully serve the Federal Republic of Nigeria as by law established as a and will as in duty bound so serve for the period of my engagement or re-engagement, as the case may be, and to wherever ordered by land, sea or air and I will observe and obey commands of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria as by law established and of officers placed over me.
3. I will always perform my duties diligently and efficiently and will not engage or be involved in any activity in conflict either directly or indirectly with this pledge.
4. I will, in the performance of my duties, eschew and expose corruption and will not corrupt others or aid or abet corruption in all its facets.
5. I will not discriminate on the basis of religion, tribe or cult or practise any form of partiality in the performance of my duties and will always follow the path of justice, honesty and concord amongst all the people of Nigeria in all I do.
6. I will subject myself to all Acts, Laws, subsidiary legislation and service regulations which now are or shall, from time to time, be in force and applicable to the Arm in which I am to serve during the period of my engagement or re-engagement, as the case may be.

So help me God.

.....
Signature or mark

Sworn at this day of, 20

Before me

.....
Signature of Officer

ARMED FORCES AFFIRMATION

The declaration will follow the form of oath except that the words "swear by Almighty God" are omitted and the words "solemnly, sincerely and truthfully affirm" are substituted.

LOCAL FORCES OATH

(To be taken by all ranks)

I, swear that I will bear true and faithful allegiance to the President, Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and that I will truly and faithfully serve the Federal Republic of Nigeria as by law established and that I will while residing within Nigeria serve in the Local Forces of Nigeria for the defence of Nigeria against all of its enemies and opposers whatsoever, according to the conditions of my service.

.....
Signature of person taking oath

Sworn at this day of, 20.....

.....
Signature of person administering the oath

LOCAL FORCES (SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE) OATH
(To be taken by officers and cadets of the supplementary reserve)

I, swear that I will bear true and faithful allegiance to the President, Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and that I will truly and faithfully serve the Federal Republic of Nigeria as by law established and that I will while residing within Nigeria serve in the Local Forces of Nigeria for the defence of Nigeria against all of its enemies and opposers whatsoever, according to the conditions of my service.

.....
Signature of officer or cadet

Sworn at this day of, 20.....

.....
Signature of person administering the oath

POLICE OATH
(To be taken by superior police officers and inspectors)

I, swear that I will bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and that I will truly and faithfully obey all lawful commands of the Government of the Federation as by law established and of any officer set over me whilst I am serving in the office of police officer; and that I will use my best endeavours for the preservation of peace and prevention of crime and the apprehension of offenders against the peace and that I will in all respects to the best of my skill and knowledge discharge all duties of the said office according to law.

.....
Signature or mark

Sworn at this day of, 20.....

.....
Signature and appointment of person authorised

POLICE DECLARATION
(To be taken by police non-commissioned officers,
constables and recruit constables)

I, solemnly, sincerely and truthfully affirm and declare that I will bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and that I will truly and faithfully obey all lawful commands of the Government of the Federation as by law established and of any officer set over me, whilst I am serving in the office of police officer; and that I will use my best endeavours for the preservation of peace and the apprehension of offender against the peace and that I will in all respects to the best of my skill and knowledge discharge all duties of the said office according to law.

.....
Signature of declarant

Affirmed and Declared at this day of, 20.....

Before me

.....
Signature and appointment of person authorised
(Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Oaths Act, Cap. 01, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Oaths Bill, 2023 to Take Cognisance of Technological Advancements and Make Provisions for Digital and Electronic Means of Administering Oaths and Affirmations in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.122) *(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 Repeal the Oaths Act, Cap. 01, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Oaths Act, 2023 to take cognisance of Technological Advancements and make provisions for Digital and Electronic means of Administering Oaths and Affirmations in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.122) and approved Clauses 1- 4, approved Clause 5 as amended, approved Clauses 6 - 19, 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.

24. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 5 October, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.25 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker