



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 5 February, 2025

1. The House met at 11.17 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House sang the National Anthem and recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 4 February, 2025.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Message**
Mr Deputy Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

3rd February, 2025

Rt Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, GCON
*Speaker, House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Rt Hon. Speaker,

**2025 APPROPRIATION BILL — ALLOCATION OF
ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF ₦4.53 TRILLION**

I am writing to inform you of the availability of additional revenue amounting to ₦4,530,479,970,637 and to propose its allocation within the 2025 Appropriation Bill to enhance the budget's responsiveness to the nation's most pressing priorities and aspirations.

2. Additional Revenue Breakdown:

This additional revenue, sourced from key agencies, represents a pivotal opportunity to address Nigeria's critical challenges and advance its development agenda:

- (i) *Government-Owned Enterprises (GOEs): ₦1,823,879,970,637;*
- (ii) *Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS): ₦1,497,600,000,000; (Federal Government's 52% share of the increase in revenue from ₦22.1 trillion to ₦25.1 trillion);*
- (iii) *Nigerian Customs Service (NCS): ₦1,209,000,000,000 (Federal Government's 52% share of the increase in revenue from ₦6.5 trillion to ₦9.0 trillion).*

With this additional revenue, the 2025 Appropriation Bill's total budget size will increase from ₦49.7 trillion to ₦54.2 trillion, demonstrating our commitment to inclusive growth and security.

3. Proposed Allocation of Additional Revenue:

I propose that these funds be allocated to the following transformative expenditure areas:

- (i) *Solid Minerals Sector — ₦1 trillion: To support economic diversification by unlocking the potential of Nigeria's vast solid mineral resources, which remain an untapped revenue stream and a vital pillar of non-oil growth.*
- (ii) *Recapitalization of the Bank of Agriculture (BoA) — ₦1.5 trillion: To transform Nigeria's agricultural landscape, ensure food security, and empower smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.*
- (iii) *Recapitalization of the Bank of Industry (BoI) — ₦500 billion: To provide critical support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), drive local manufacturing, and reduce dependence on imports.*
- (iv) *Critical Infrastructure Projects (RHID Fund) — ₦1.5 trillion: Allocated as follows:*
 - (a) *Irrigation Development (through River Basin Development Authorities): ₦380 billion.*
 - (b) *Transportation Infrastructure (roads and rail): ₦700 billion (300 billion for the construction and rehabilitation of critical roads and 400 billion for light rail network development in urban centers),*
 - (c) *Border Communities Infrastructure: ₦50 billion,*
 - (d) *Military Barracks Accommodation: ₦250 billion, and*
 - (e) *Military Aviation: ₦120 billion.*

4. Justifications for Allocations:

- (i) *Solid Minerals Sector — ₦1 trillion:*
 - (a) *Economic Resilience: Reduces reliance on volatile oil sector by creating alternative revenue streams.*
 - (b) *Regional Equity: Encourages development in resource-rich, underserved areas; boosting rural economies.*
 - (c) *Value Addition: Supports processing and export of minerals, increasing foreign. exchange earnings.*
- (ii) *Bank of Agriculture Recapitalization — ₦1.5 trillion:*
 - (a) *Food Security: Empowers smallholder farmers and agribusinesses, improving access to affordable credit.*
 - (b) *Economic Growth: Enhances agricultural productivity and supports agroindustrial value chains.*
 - (c) *Export Competitiveness: Promotes the export of high-value crops, reducing pressure on the Naira.*
- (iii) *Bank of Industry Recapitalization — ₦500 billion:*
 - (a) *SME Empowerment: Provides affordable financing for innovation and entrepreneurship.*
 - (b) *Job Creation: Drives industrial growth and supports local manufacturing, reducing unemployment.*
 - (c) *Revenue Growth: Expands the tax base through industrial expansion.*
- (iv) *Critical Infrastructure (RHID Fund) — ₦1.5 trillion:*
 - (a) *Irrigation Development: ₦380 billion will strengthen Nigeria's capacity for year round agricultural production, ensuring water security and boosting food supply.*
 - (b) *Transportation Infrastructure: ₦700 billion will modernize Nigeria's road and rail networks, reducing costs, enhancing connectivity, and supporting economic activity.*
 - (c) *Border Communities Infrastructure: ₦50 billion will improve living standards and enhance the security of border regions, fostering stability and cross-border trade.*
 - (d) *Military Barracks Accommodation: ₦250 billion will provide modern and expanded housing for personnel, boosting morale and operational readiness.*
 - (e) *Military Aviation: ₦120 billion will modernize Nigeria's aviation capabilities, ensuring the military remains responsive to emerging security challenges.*

4. ***A Philosophical Case for Military Expenditure:***

The foundation of a thriving nation lies in its ability to protect its citizens. No infrastructure, no innovation, and no progress can be enjoyed or sustained without security. The government has a constitutional obligation to secure lives and property, and military expenditure is not merely a fiscal decision-it is a moral imperative: By investing in our armed forces, we affirm our resolve to end terrorism, safeguard the dignity of our people, and create conditions for economic prosperity. This budget reflects not only our commitment to securing Nigeria today but to building a future where every citizen can live and thrive without fear.

5. ***Broader Justification:***

This allocation framework underscores the Administration's dedication to fostering inclusive growth, addressing security challenges, and building resilience into Nigeria's economic fabric. These investments will:

- (i) Promote Stability: By addressing critical infrastructure deficits, especially in underserved regions, and strengthening national security.*
- (ii) Diversify Revenue: By investing in agriculture, solid minerals, and manufacturing, reducing over-reliance on oil revenues.*
- (iii) Catalyze Economic Growth: By enhancing infrastructure, supporting SMEs, and unlocking Nigeria's vast economic potential.*

6. ***Request for Integration:***

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I urge the National Assembly to adopt and integrate these proposals into the 2025 Appropriation Bill, reflecting our shared commitment to national development. Kindly let me know if additional information or clarification is required.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Bola Ahmed Tinubu

Letter referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

5. **Announcement**

(i) ***Visitors in the Gallery:***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the presence of Staff and Students of Jaypecstar Academy, Lugbe, Abuja.

(ii) ***Bereavement:***

Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbefwi (*Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Ahmed Ishaq Kana (*Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency, 2011 - 2015*), who died on Sunday, 5 January, 2025.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

6. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Okpiavbe & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Orhionmwon Youths Congress and 2 others, on alleged fraudulent sale of Presco Plc, by Afrinvest Capital Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Billy Famous Osawaru (*Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*);

- (ii) A petition from Sodeinde Sonaike & Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Umu-Iwelie/Abuator Community, on alleged non-payment of their Pipeline Security Surveillance salaries by Oando Energy Resources Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*);
 - (a) I. J. Ezekwe & Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Michael Ezekwe, on alleged invasion and dumping of toxic wastes on his family's farmland by Seplat Energy Plc;
 - (b) Ukeme Udom, on the termination of his appointment by the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA);
 - (c) 17 villages in Odoro Ikot Community, Essien Udim Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, on alleged disconnection of their electricity supply by the Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company;
- (iv) The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*);
 - (a) Award Winning Consult Limited, on behalf of Ojunah Ambrose, on alleged unlawful gas flaring by Midwestern Oil and Gas Limited, and Energia Limited;
 - (b) Onabville Attorneys (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Imagi Group of families, on alleged deprivation of rights by Total Energies E & P Nigerian Limited;
- (v) A petition from Concerned Citizens of Owaza, Ukwa West Local Government Area, Abia State, on alleged termination of their contract, by Powerline Infrastructure Nigerian Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Chris Nkwonta (*Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) A petition from Award Winning Consult Limited, on behalf of Osho Obede Adiakpor family, on alleged trespass on their ancestral land by Seplat Petroleum Development Plc, was presented and laid by Hon. Jajere Muhammed Buba (*Fika/Fune Federal Constituency*);
- (vii) A petition from Matthew Oludare Fasuyi, on alleged non-payment of his salary by the Federal Ministry of Interior, was presented and laid by Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi (*Ekiti South West/kere/Ise Orun Federal Constituency*);
- (viii) A petition from R. O. Atabo, SAN & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Next Dora Nigeria Limited and 2 others, on alleged violation of Court Order in Suit No: CV/5517/2024, was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali (*Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Unsolicited and Illegal Linking of National Identification Number (NIN) by Telecom Service Providers in Nigeria:***
Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency and One Other*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and

- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Unsolicited and Illegal Linking of National Identification Number (NIN) by Telecom Service Providers in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes with concern the recent reports of telecom service providers in Nigeria linking National Identification Numbers (NIN) to subscribers' lines without their consent, thereby exposing them to criminal activities and subjecting legitimate NIN holders to grave risk;

Recognizes that the action is a clear violation of the Nigeria Data Protection Act, 2023 and the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) 2019, which guarantee the right to privacy and protection of personal data of every Nigerian;

Aware that the National Identification Number (NIN) was established to streamline the verification and identification of persons and enhance security in Nigeria;

Also aware that the potential risks and consequences of this unauthorized data linking includes identity theft, financial fraud, and other forms of cybercrime that have become rife in Nigeria lately;

Further aware that innocent citizens have been wrongly implicated in crimes, suffer reputational damage, harassment and legal challenges for crimes they know nothing about;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Communications Commission to investigate these reports and take immediate actions against any telecom service provider found to be culpable in this practice;
- (ii) also urge the National Identity Management Commission to confirm whether the linking of NIN numbers by telecom service providers was authorized and in compliance with relevant laws and regulations; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Communications, and Interior to conduct a thorough investigation into this matter and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Patrick Umoh -Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency and One Other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the recent reports of telecom service providers in Nigeria linking National Identification Numbers (NIN) to subscribers' lines without their consent, thereby exposing them to criminal activities and subjecting legitimate NIN holders to grave risk;

Recognized that the action is a clear violation of the Nigeria Data Protection Act, 2023 and the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) 2019, which guarantee the right to privacy

and protection of personal data of every Nigerian;

Aware that the National Identification Number (NIN) was established to streamline the verification and identification of persons and enhance security in Nigeria;

Also aware that the potential risks and consequences of this unauthorized data linking includes identity theft, financial fraud, and other forms of cybercrime that have become rife in Nigeria lately;

Further aware that innocent citizens have been wrongly implicated in crimes, suffer reputational damage, harassment and legal challenges for crimes they know nothing about;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Communications Commission to investigate these reports and take immediate actions against any telecom service provider found to be culpable in this practice;
 - (ii) also urge the National Identity Management Commission to confirm whether the linking of NIN numbers by telecom service providers was authorized and in compliance with relevant laws and regulations; and
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Communications, and Interior to conduct a thorough investigation into this matter and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 06/02/2025**).
- (ii) ***Recurring Fatal Accidents at Oko-Olowo Junction, along Jebba Road, Ilorin, Kwara State, and Other Devastating Trailer and Petroleum Tanker Accidents Across Nigerian Highways:*** Hon. Ahmed Yinka Aluko (*Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Recurring Fatal Accidents at Oko-Olowo Junction, along Jebba Road, Ilorin, Kwara State, and Other Devastating Trailer and Petroleum Tanker Accidents Across Nigerian Highways:

The House:

Notes with grave concern the alarming frequency of accidents involving trailers and petroleum tankers on our highways, resulting in catastrophic loss of lives, severe injuries, and extensive damage to properties, including the tragic accident on January 15, 2025, at Oko-Olowo expressway where sixteen (16) lives were lost, as well as the recent petroleum tanker accident that happened in Niger State that resulted in a devastating fire outbreak causing loss of 86 lives and extensive property damage;

Observes that these accidents were primarily caused by factors such as driver fatigue, poor vehicle maintenance, inadequate training, poor road conditions, tragic secondary incidents like the scooping of fuel from fallen tankers and weak enforcement of existing regulations;

Also observes that accident records from January 2024 to January 2025 show that no less than 127 major accidents involving trailers and petroleum tankers have occurred nationwide, with the Oko-Olowo junction in Ilorin, Kwara State recording at least 18 fatal accidents within this period, including the recent devastating incident that claimed 16 lives;

Also notes the most recent accidents which led to the loss of over 250 lives, leaving more than 400 persons with various degrees of injuries, and destroyed property worth billions of naira, including residential buildings, commercial properties, and hundreds of vehicles with the Oko-Olowo junction notorious death trap, accounting for nearly 40% of all road fatalities recorded in Kwara State within the past year;

Aware that these heavy-duty vehicles are critical to the transportation of goods and petroleum products across the country, making their safe operation essential for economic stability and national development;

Disturbed that the frequent accidents have made our highways increasingly dangerous for motorists, pedestrians, and communities living along these routes, while also causing environmental pollution due to spills of hazardous materials;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works in collaboration with the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Vehicle Inspection Officer (VIO) to immediately implement stricter regulations and enforcement mechanisms for the operation and maintenance check of trailers and petroleum tankers;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation, in collaboration with National Road Transport Owners (NARTO), Nigerian Association of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), and Petroleum Tanker Drivers (PTD) branch of NUPENG, to establish and implement a comprehensive mandatory trainings and certifications program for drivers of trailers and petroleum tankers;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Works to commence immediate construction of a flyover at the identified death trap location at Oko-Olowo expressway to prevent further accidents;
- (iv) still urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to immediately commence an intensive nationwide public awareness campaign on the dangers of scooping fuel from fallen tankers, utilizing local languages, community engagement, and multimedia platforms to effectively reach all segments of society (*Hon. Ahmed Yinka Aluko — Ilorin East/South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with grave concern the alarming frequency of accidents involving trailers and petroleum tankers on our highways, resulting in catastrophic loss of lives, severe injuries, and extensive damage to properties, including the tragic accident on January 15, 2025, at Oko-Olowo expressway where sixteen (16) lives were lost, as well as the recent petroleum tanker accident that happened in Niger State that resulted in a devastating fire outbreak causing loss of 86 lives and extensive property damage;

Observed that these accidents were primarily caused by factors such as driver fatigue, poor

vehicle maintenance, inadequate training, poor road conditions, tragic secondary incidents like the scooping of fuel from fallen tankers and weak enforcement of existing regulations;

Also observed that accident records from January 2024 to January 2025 show that no less than 127 major accidents involving trailers and petroleum tankers have occurred nationwide, with the Oko-Olowo junction in Ilorin, Kwara State recording at least 18 fatal accidents within this period, including the recent devastating incident that claimed 16 lives;

Also noted the most recent accidents which led to the loss of over 250 lives, leaving more than 400 persons with various degrees of injuries, and destroyed property worth billions of naira, including residential buildings, commercial properties, and hundreds of vehicles with the Oko-Olowo junction notorious death trap, accounting for nearly 40% of all road fatalities recorded in Kwara State within the past year;

Aware that these heavy-duty vehicles are critical to the transportation of goods and petroleum products across the country, making their safe operation essential for economic stability and national development;

Disturbed that the frequent accidents have made our highways increasingly dangerous for motorists, pedestrians, and communities living along these routes, while also causing environmental pollution due to spills of hazardous materials;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works in collaboration with the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Vehicle Inspection Officer (VIO) to immediately implement stricter regulations and enforcement mechanisms for the operation and maintenance check of trailers and petroleum tankers;
 - (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation, in collaboration with National Road Transport Owners (NARTO), Nigerian Association of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), and Petroleum Tanker Drivers (PTD) branch of NUPENG, to establish and implement a comprehensive mandatory trainings and certifications program for drivers of trailers and petroleum tankers;
 - (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Works to commence immediate construction of a flyover at the identified death trap location at Oko-Olowo expressway to prevent further accidents;
 - (iv) still urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to immediately commence an intensive nationwide public awareness campaign on the dangers of scooping fuel from fallen tankers, utilizing local languages, community engagement, and multimedia platforms to effectively reach all segments of society (**HR. 07/02/2025**).
- (iii) ***Rising Insecurity in Kauru Local Government Area of Kaduna State:***
Hon. Mukhtar Zakari Chawai (*Kauru Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Rising Insecurity in Kauru Local Government Area of Kaduna State:

The House:

Notes the rising insecurity in Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate with cases of kidnapping, rustling and human fatalities occurring almost weekly;

Also notes the latest attacks in Zakada town in Makami Ward, Galadimawa in Kwassam Ward and Gashere Ward where many were kidnapped and killed;

Aware of the Operation Safe Haven with heavy military personnel in the Kauru Local Government Area covering the Chawai axis;

Also aware that, the effort and action of Operation Safe Haven and other security personnel has helped in maintaining peace in Chawai axis;

Regrets that the temporal deployment of military personnel to Kauru and Kumana has stemmed the insecurity tide with rapidly a return to the area once the troops withdraw from the base;

Further aware that a quick deployment of more security personnel to the troubled areas of Kauru Emirate and Kumana Chiefdom could help forestall the insecurity and the trauma faced by the inhabitants;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the departed souls;
- (ii) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to direct quick establishment of FOBs in the troubled areas of Kauru Local Government to forestall the insecurity in the place;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector-General of Police to deploy more Police Officers and outposts in the Local Government Area to prevent criminality in the area;
- (iii) further urge the Nigerian military to provide adequate military equipment such as grade motorcycles to aid in traversing the many non-motorable roads (*Hon. Mukhtar Zakiri Chawai — Kauru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the rising insecurity in Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate with cases of kidnapping, rustling and human fatalities occurring almost weekly;

Also noted the latest attacks in Zakada town in Makami Ward, Galadimawa in Kwassam Ward and Gashere Ward where many were kidnapped and killed;

Aware of the Operation Safe Haven with heavy military personnel in the Kauru Local Government Area covering the Chawai axis;

Also aware that, the effort and action of Operation Safe Haven and other security personnel has helped in maintaining peace in Chawai axis;

Regretted that the temporal deployment of military personnel to Kauru and Kumana has stemmed the insecurity tide with rapidly a return to the area once the troops withdraw from the base;

Further aware that a quick deployment of more security personnel to the troubled areas of Kauru Emirate and Kumana Chiefdom could help forestall the insecurity and the trauma faced by the inhabitants;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the departed souls;
- (ii) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to direct quick establishment of FOBs in the troubled areas of Kauru Local Government to forestall the insecurity in the place;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector-General of Police to deploy more Police Officers and outposts in the Local Government Area to prevent criminality in the area;
- (iii) further urge the Nigerian military to provide adequate military equipment such as grade motorcycles to aid in traversing the many non-motorable roads (**HR. 08/02/2025**).

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

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

Agreed to.

- (iv) ***Need for the Nigeria Police and Other Security Agencies to Liaise with Local Vigilante and the Likes to Embark on a Holistic Combing of Forests in All Part of Nigeria to Forestall the Hibernation and Continued Presence of Bandits and Herdsmen in Their Hideout:***
Hon. Billy Famous Osawaru (*Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need for the Nigeria Police and Other Security Agencies to Liaise with Local Vigilante and the Likes to Embark on a Holistic Combing of Forests in All Part of Nigeria to Forestall the Hibernation and Continued Presence of Bandits and Herdsmen in Their Hideout:

The House:

Notes that "Sections 14 (1) and (2) (b) as well as 17 (2) (b) and (c) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) states clearly that one of the fundamental objectives of government is to provide security and welfare to its citizens;

Also notes that Nigeria has over time been facing the scourge of insecurity, including

terrorism, banditry and militia activities leading to unfortunate killings, kidnapping, abductions, armed robbery, cattle rustling, unknown gunmen, vandalism of critical national infrastructure, which seem to have defied several strategies designed to tackle and mitigate it;

Informed that the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in its reports titled "The Crime Experience and Security Perception Survey (CESPS) 2024," revealed that Nigerians paid a total of N2.23tn as ransom across Nigeria between May 2023 and April 2024 and also, recorded approximately 51.89 million crime incidents across Nigerian households in the period under review;

Also informed that the Amotekun Corps has mobilised over 2,000 personnel to flush out bandits and other criminals operating in forests in the South-West region, and there is need for a holistic approach to extend this action to the neighboring forests of South-South region to prevent them from using it as escape route or new found home;

Aware that this ugly trend of insecurity is detrimental to the growth, development and future of the nation as panic and tension continually mount on the citizens regarding their safety, while investor's confidence are reduced, farm lands were abandoned resulting to decrease in food production, scarcity, hunger and inflation as well as displacement of large population;

Concerned that the continued presence of banditry, kidnapping, and other form of insecurity in Nigeria underscore a clear deficiency in our country's security architecture thereby necessitating a critical need to reassess, reevaluate and reinvent the nation's response and tactics for combating these unconscionable security breaches.

Worried that if wilful and productive actions are not deployed to ascertain, review, develop and strengthen comprehensive strategies to curbing this unprecedented wave of security crises, then its scope will continue to widen, perhaps to areas where there has been relatively peaceful, wreaking havoc and hampering economic activities thereby inflicting untold hardship and hunger on the citizens and this does not portend well for the future of the nation.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to liaise with local vigilante and the likes to embark on a holistic combing of forests in all part of Nigeria to forestall the hibernation and continued presence of bandits and herdsmen in their hideout;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Institutions, Army, Interior and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Billy Favour Osawaru — Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii), as follows:
"urge the Executive Arm of Government to empower the Nigeria Police to adopt satellite-based technology to monitor blind spots that may constitute hideouts for criminal elements around the country" (*Hon. Dennis Agbo — Igbo-Eze North/Udenu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words "Committees on", *leave out* the words "Police Institution" and *insert* the words "Police Affairs" (*Hon. Philip Agbese —*

Ado/Okpokwu/Ogbadibo Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that "Sections 14 (1) and (2) (b) as well as 17 (2) (b) and (c) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) states clearly that one of the fundamental objectives of government is to provide security and welfare to its citizens;

Also noted that Nigeria has over time been facing the scourge of insecurity, including terrorism, banditry and militia activities leading to unfortunate killings, kidnapping, abductions, armed robbery, cattle rustling, unknown gunmen, vandalism of critical national infrastructure, which seem to have defied several strategies designed to tackle and mitigate it;

Informed that the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in its reports titled "The Crime Experience and Security Perception Survey (CESPS) 2024," revealed that Nigerians paid a total of N2.23tn as ransom across Nigeria between May 2023 and April 2024 and also, recorded approximately 51.89 million crime incidents across Nigerian households in the period under review;

Also informed that the Amotekun Corps has mobilised over 2,000 personnel to flush out bandits and other criminals operating in forests in the South-West region, and there is need for a holistic approach to extend this action to the neighboring forests of South-South region to prevent them from using it as escape route or new found home;

Aware that this ugly trend of insecurity is detrimental to the growth, development and future of the nation as panic and tension continually mount on the citizens regarding their safety, while investor's confidence are reduced, farm lands were abandoned resulting to decrease in food production, scarcity, hunger and inflation as well as displacement of large population;

Concerned that the continued presence of banditry, kidnapping, and other form of insecurity in Nigeria underscore a clear deficiency in our country's security architecture thereby necessitating a critical need to reassess, reevaluate and reinvent the nation's response and tactics for combating these unconscionable security breaches.

Worried that if wilful and productive actions are not deployed to ascertain, review, develop and strengthen comprehensive strategies to curbing this unprecedented wave of security crises, then its scope will continue to widen, perhaps to areas where there has been relatively peaceful, wreaking havoc and hampering economic activities thereby inflicting untold hardship and hunger on the citizens and this does not portend well for the future of the nation.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to liaise with local vigilante and the likes to embark on a holistic combing of forests in all part of Nigeria to forestall the hibernation and continued presence of bandits and herdsmen in their hideout;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to empower the Nigeria Police to adopt satellite-based technology to monitor blind spots that may constitute hideouts for criminal elements around the country;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army, Interior and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 09/02/2025**).
- (v) ***Need to Declare the Following Sea-Ravaged and Submerged Oil Producing Communities of Ayetoro, Awoye, Molutehin, Abereke in Ilaje/Ese Odo Local Government Areas, Ondo State as Disaster Zones and National Emergency:***
Hon. Donald Kimikanboh Ojogo (*Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Declare the Following Sea-Ravaged and Submerged Oil Producing Communities of Ayetoro, Awoye, Molutehin, Abereke in Ilaje/Ese Odo Local Government Areas, Ondo State as Disaster Zones and National Emergency:

The House:

Notes that the above-mentioned oil-producing communities of the coastal area of Ondo State are major sources of the nation;

Also notes that these communities account for 5.8 per cent of the 60,000 Barrel Per Day (BPD) of Ondo State's crude oil production output amounting to about 3. 7 per cent of Nigeria's total oil production. This ranks Ondo State 5th among Nigeria's oil producing states as captured by the NDDC law;

Disturbed that devastating sea incursions and ocean surges have been the albatross of these communities for over two decades with hundreds of homes and properties destroyed resulting in the displacement of indigenes of the communities in their thousands and culminating in disruption of oil exploration activities, thereby posing threats to peace and security in the riverine areas of the State;

Also disturbed that the surges which have become an annual occurrence all along have reached a peak thereby submerging more than half of each of these communities; and in the case of AWOYE in particular, the communities is now split into by the ravaging incursion;

Concerned that in the last three weeks, the upsurge in the sea incursion has prompted a massive movement of indigenes and regrettably, avoidable deaths have been recorded due to the harsh conditions the displaced person are subjected to;

Also concerned that this has become alarming that successive administrations in Ondo State appear to have been overwhelmed, thus helpless in the face of the gradual sink of these communities into the ocean and almost inevitable extinction;

Further concerned that this disturbing scene in the oil Bearing coastal communities is now a metaphor, and a constant content for advertorials in International and National Broadcast channels in terms of depicting negative and ecologically-impacted images;

Observes the need to ensure that the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and its resolve, through the RENEWED HOPE mantra, is supported through Legislative backing to protect our treasure bases, especially at a time the administration is desirous to ramp up oil production for enhanced revenue for development;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to declare the aforementioned Communities as Disaster Zones and National Emergency;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on National Emergency and Disaster Management, Ecological Fund, NDDC, Niger Delta (now Regional Development) and Legislative Compliance to take urgent measures to ensure compliance (*Hon. Donald Kimikanboh Ojogo — Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the above-mentioned oil-producing communities of the coastal area of Ondo State are major sources of the nation;

Also noted that these communities account for 5.8 per cent of the 60,000 Barrel Per Day (BPD) of Ondo State's crude oil production output amounting to about 3.7 per cent of Nigeria's total oil production. This ranks Ondo State 5th among Nigeria's oil producing states as captured by the NDDC law;

Disturbed that devastating sea incursions and ocean surges have been the albatross of these communities for over two decades with hundreds of homes and properties destroyed resulting in the displacement of indigenes of the communities in their thousands and culminating in disruption of oil exploration activities, thereby posing threats to peace and security in the riverine areas of the State;

Also disturbed that the surges which have become an annual occurrence all along have reached a peak thereby submerging more than half of each of these communities; and in the case of AWOYE in particular, the communities is now split into by the ravaging incursion;

Concerned that in the last three weeks, the upsurge in the sea incursion has prompted a massive movement of indigenes and regrettably, avoidable deaths have been recorded due to the harsh conditions the displaced person are subjected to;

Also concerned that this has become alarming that successive administrations in Ondo State appear to have been overwhelmed, thus helpless in the face of the gradual sink of these communities into the ocean and almost inevitable extinction;

Further concerned that this disturbing scene in the oil Bearing coastal communities is now a metaphor, and a constant content for advertorials in International and National Broadcast channels in terms of depicting negative and ecologically-impacted images;

Observed the need to ensure that the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and its resolve, through the RENEWED HOPE mantra, is supported through Legislative backing to protect our treasure bases, especially at a time the administration is desirous to ramp up oil production for enhanced revenue for development;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to declare the aforementioned Communities as Disaster Zones and National Emergency;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on National Emergency and Disaster Management, Ecological Fund, NDDC, Niger Delta (now Regional Development) and Legislative Compliance to take urgent measures to ensure compliance (**HR. 10/02/2024**).

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) National Assembly Service Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2065).
- (2) National Institute for Fishery Management, Bagwai, Kano State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1865).
- (3) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Development, Gombi, Adamawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1995).
- (4) National Sugar Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 2022).
- (5) National Agricultural Development Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2036).
- (6) National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2037).
- (7) Nigerian Association of Paralegals (Establishment) Bill 2025 (HB.1992).
- (8) Criminal Code Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2038).
- (9) National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) Act (Amendment Bill) (HB.2055).
- (10) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2024).
- (11) Orthopaedic Hospital Management Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 2010).
- (12) Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama, Borno State (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2024 (SB. 186).
- (13) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Mubi, Adamawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2026).
- (14) Federal University of Oil and Gas Technology, Igbokoda, Ondo State (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2032).
- (15) National Institute for Vocational and Entrepreneurial Studies, Agadagba Obon-Arogbo, Ondo State (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2033).
- (16) Nigerian Geological Survey Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 2018).
- (17) Federal Capital Territory Scholarship Board (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2027).
- (18) Public Health Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2029).
- (19) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 Act (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (Change

of the Local Government from Aiyekire LGA to Aiyedire LGA, Ekiti State) (HB. 2028).

- (20) National Assembly Financial Management (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1926).
- (21) University of Abuja Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 2014).
- (22) Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission's Meter Reading, Billing, Cash Collection and Credit Management for Electricity Supplies Regulations (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 2015).
- (23) Companies and Allied Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 2016).
- (24) National Mathematical Centre Act (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (HB. 2016).
- (25) University of Abuja Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 2020).

9. Presentation of Reports

(i) *Committee on Healthcare Services:*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Healthcare Services on a Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Health Service Administrators of Nigeria to Provide for the Control, Health Administration and Regulation of the activities of its Members and for Related Matters (HB.935)” (*Hon. Amos Magaji Gwamna Abel — Jaba/Zangon Kataf Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) *Committee on Healthcare Services:*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Healthcare Services on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Tobacco Control Act, 2015 to cure certain defects in the Act, ensure its effective Implementation in Nigeria and address the Lacuna that may be easily exploited by the Tobacco Industry in Nigeria and impose stiffer Penalties for Smoking of Tobacco in Public Places and for Related Matters (HB.47 and HB. 1151)” (*Hon. Amos Magaji Gwamna Abel — Jaba/Zangon Kataf Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigeria Legion Act, Cap. N119, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Veteran Federation of Nigeria to ensure the proper Welfare and Health condition of the Military Veterans, Expand the Operation and Functions of the Veteran Federation for National Development and for Related Matters (HB. 1950) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigeria Legion Act, Cap. N119, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Veteran Federation of Nigeria to ensure the proper Welfare and Health condition of the Military Veterans, Expand the Operation and Functions of the Veteran Federation for National Development and for Related Matters (HB. 1950) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi — Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise Orun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned to enable the sponsor make further consultation.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Act, No. 8 of 2014 to Provide a framework for**

Establishment of a National Quality Accreditation Commission, Federal Tertiary Health Institutions Commission and for Related Matters (HB.802) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Act, No. 8 of 2014 to Provide a framework for Establishment of a National Quality Accreditation Commission, Federal Tertiary Health Institutions Commission and for Related Matters (HB.802) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Adedayo Adesola Samuel — Apapa Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Healthcare Services.

12. A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Mangun, Plateau State to Provide Training and Research in General Nursing, Midwifery and other Specialties of Nursing and for Related Matters (HB. 1748) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Mangun, Plateau State to Provide Training and Research in General Nursing, Midwifery and other Specialties of Nursing and for Related Matters (HB. 1748) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Ishaya David Lalu — Bokkos/Mangu Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Health Institutions.

13. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of National Obstetrics Fistula Centre, for Treatment, Rehabilitation, Reintegration Research and Training, Babbar-Ruga, Kastina State and for Related Matters (HB. 1190) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of National Obstetrics Fistula Centre, for Treatment, Rehabilitation, Reintegration Research and Training, Babbar-Ruga, Kastina State and for Related Matters (HB. 1190) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Dalhatu Shehu — Faskari/Kankara/Sabuwa Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Speciality Healthcare.

14. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to insulate Judicial Officers from Prosecution before being Lawfully removed from Office and for Related Matters (HB. 1178) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to insulate Judicial Officers from Prosecution before being Lawfully removed from Office and for Related Matters (HB. 1178) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Solomon T. Bob — Abua/Odual/Ahoada East Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Debate adjourned till Thursday, 6 February, 2025.

15. Need to Sensitize Nigerians on the Dangers of Scooping from Fallen Petroleum Laden Tankers

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. Need to Complete the Construction of JAMB Office in Gbongan, Ayedaade Local Government Area and Construct a New JAMB Office at Apomu, Isokan Local Government Area, Osun State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the JAMB office in Gbongan Ayedaade Local Government, Osun State has not been completed since 2021, the uncompleted status has greatly affected its accreditation by the JAMB;

Also notes that without the construction and accreditation of JAMB office in Gbongan, students in the area cannot participate in the Computer-Based Test;

Aware that the Federal Government has committed huge resources to the uncompleted 540 sitting capacity examination hall;

Worried that the 270 computer equipment supplied to Gbongan JAMB office has not been utilized due to non-completion of the office complex;

Also worried at the alarming increase of JAMB students in 2024 with Osun State students JAMB registration standing at 110,000 without a corresponding increase in JAMB CBT examination centers;

Cognizant of the need to establish a new JAMB Office in Apomu, Isokan Local Government, Osun State, specifically in Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokanokan Federal constituency;

Disturbed that the JAMB office in Gbongan, Ayedaade Local Government has no electricity, standby generator and solar power system to mitigate against NEPA failure during JAMB examinations,

Aware that the Gbongan office still needs additional 275 computer systems to complete the second phase of the uncompleted examinations hall with 540 sitting capacity;

Also aware that the Western Region of Nigeria has a total of 517,000 JAMB registration 2024, out of which Osun State has 110,000 candidates Osun State;

Further aware of the need to site JAMB office in Apomu, Isokan Local Government, Osun State to take care of students in Ikire, Apomu, Orile Owu towns and neighbouring communities;

Cognizant that access to JAMB offices and Computer Based Test Centers is crucial for students to achieve academic breakthrough, as successful JAMB examination results are the only gateway to higher Institutions;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to consider the completion of the JAMB Office in Gbongan Ayedaade Local Government, Osun State and approve the opening of new JAMB offices in the State particularly in Apomu town, Isokan Local Government in the Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency of Osun State;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Basic Examination Bodies to ensure compliance and report within four weeks (*Hon. Lanre Alomoleye Oladebo — Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 11/02/2025).

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

17. Menace of Gully Erosion in Nanka, Oko and Umunze Communities

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. Consideration of Reports

(i) ***A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Sabon Birini Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1815) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Sabon Birini Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1815)" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNICS ACT,
CAP.17, LAWS OF FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 TO ESTABLISH
FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, SABON BIRNI, SOKOTO STATE;
AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.1815)

Clause 1: Amendment of the Federal Polytechnics Act, 2023.

The Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. 17, LFN, 2004 (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 First Schedule.

The First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new item "q" —

"Federal Polytechnic, Sabon Birni, Sokoto 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 Polytechnics Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (*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 Polytechnic Act, to Establish Federal Polytechnic Sabon Birni, Sokoto State (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap.17, Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish Federal Polytechnic, Sabon Birni, Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB.1815) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Sabon Birini Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1815) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, 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 Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Isa, Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1818) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Isa, Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1818)" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES ACT, 2022 TO ESTABLISH FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, ISA, SOKOTO STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.1818)

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

The Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 (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 "23"

—

"Federal Medical Centre, Isa, Sokoto 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, 2025 (*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, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Isa, Sokoto State (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Isa, Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB.1818) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Isa, Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1818) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, 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 Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Tombia, Rivers State and for Related Matters (HB.1977) (Committee of the Whole):

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Tombia, Rivers State and for Related Matters (HB.1977)" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNICS
ACT, CAP.17, LAWS OF FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004
TO ESTABLISH FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, TOMBIA,
RIVERS STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Clause 1: Amendment of the Federal Polytechnics Act, 2023.

The Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap 17, LFN, 2004 (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 First Schedule.

The First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new item "q" —

"Federal Polytechnic, Tombia, Rivers 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 Polytechnics Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (*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 Polytechnic Act, to Establish Federal Polytechnic Tombia, Rivers State (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap.17, Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish Federal Polytechnic, Tombia, Rivers State; and for Related Matters (HB.1977) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Tombia, Rivers State and for Related Matters (HB.1977) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(iv) Committee on University Education:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on University Education on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 25)" (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES, ITEM BENDE; TO MAKE COMPREHENSIVE PROVISIONS FOR DUE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 25)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT, CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FEDERAL, UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES, BENDE

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 1: Establishment of the Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences.

- (1) There is hereby established the Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende, Abia State in this Bill referred to as "the University").
- (2) The University shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 2: Objects and mandate.

- (1) The general objects/purposes of the University shall be to —
 - (a) encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction, the opportunity of acquiring a higher education in Medicine and other Health Sciences;
 - (b) develop and offer academic and professional programs leading to the award of first degrees, postgraduate research and higher degrees with emphasis on planning, adaptive, technical, maintenance, developmental and productive skills in the field of Medicine, biomedical engineering, scientific, and allied professional disciplines relating to health resources with the aim of producing socially mature persons with capacity not only to understand, use and adapt existing technologies in the health industry, but also to improve on those disciplines and develop new ones, and to contribute to the scientific transformation of medical and other health practices in Nigeria;
 - (c) act as agents and catalysts, through postgraduate training, research and innovation for the effective and economic utilization, exploitation and conservation of Nigeria's natural, economic and human resources;
 - (d) offer to the general population, as a form of public service, the results of training and research in medicine and allied disciplines and to foster the practical application of those results;

- (e) establish appropriate relationships with other national institutions involved in training, research and development of health care;
 - (f) identify the health problems and needs of Nigeria and to find solutions to them within the context of overall national development;
 - (g) provide and promote sound basic scientific training as a foundation for the development of medicine and allied disciplines, taking into account indigenous culture, the need to enhance national unity, the need to vastly increase the practical content of student training, and adequate preparation of graduates for self-employment in medicine and allied professions;
 - (h) promote and emphasize teaching, research and extension of health knowledge, including health extension services and outreach programs, in-service training, continuing education, and adaptive research;
 - (i) offer academic programs in relation to the training of manpower for medicine and allied profession in Nigeria;
 - (j) organize research relevant to training of manpower and health technology;
 - (k) organize extension services and outreach programs for technology transfer;
 - (l) establish institutional linkages in order to foster collaboration and integration of training, research, and extension activities; and
 - (m) undertake any other activities appropriate for a University of Health Sciences.
- (2) The mandate of the University shall be to —
- (a) teach and train high caliber health-care professionals;
 - (b) provide healthcare services and consultancy;
 - (c) conduct research and participate in extension, outreach and community services;
 - (d) operate various schools and specialties that offer exemplary training and quality research in health care;
 - (e) facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and skills in different specialties for effective and efficient management of health care;
 - (f) provide solution to the lack and the inequitable distribution of health professionals serving rural communities;
 - (g) train clinically, competent and socially conscious health workers who will stay and serve in depressed and undeserved communities especially in the rural areas of Nigeria;
 - (h) develop a training model for the training of community-oriented

health workers that could be replicated in other areas of Nigeria,

- (i) facilitate collaboration and enhancement of health sciences research and education endeavours;
- (j) advance the national and international reputation as the premier university for health sciences education and research in Nigeria;
- (k) advise and report regularly to the ministry of education on all matters relevant to the health sciences sector and its education and research programs;
- (l) work collectively on common health academic issues and their implementation;
- (m) provide management support for education and research across the health sciences sector;
- (o) promote inter-professional education across all health professional programs and optimize the resources to do so; and
- (p) ensure that the health sciences sector is adequately and appropriately represented at all levels of University governance (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 3: Composition of the University.

- (1) The University shall consist of —
 - (a) Chancellor;
 - (b) Pro-Chancellor and a Council;
 - (c) Vice-Chancellor and a Senate;
 - (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor(s);
 - (e) a body to be called Congregation;
 - (f) a body to be called Convocation;
 - (g) campuses and colleges of the University;
 - (h) schools, institutes and other teaching and research units;
 - (i) persons holding the offices constituted by the First Schedule to this Bill other than those mentioned in paragraph (a) to (d) of this subsection;
 - (j) all graduates and undergraduates of the University; and
 - (k) all other persons who are members of the University in accordance with provisions made by statute in that behalf.

- (2) The Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the principal officers of the University.
- (3) Subject to section 6 of this Bill, provision shall be made by statute with respect to the constitution of the following bodies, namely the Council, the Senate, Congregation and Convocation (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 4: Powers of the University and their exercise.

- (1) For the carrying out of its objects as specified in section 2 of this Bill, the University shall have power —
 - (a) to establish such campuses, colleges, institutes, schools, extramural departments and other teaching and research units within the University as may, from time to time, be deemed necessary or desirable, subject to the approval of the "Senate Council and the National Universities Commission";
 - (b) to institute professorships, readerships or associate professorships, and other posts and offices and to make appointments thereto;
 - (c) to institute and award fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, medals, prizes and other titles, distinctions, awards and other forms of assistance;
 - (d) to provide for the discipline and welfare of members of the University;
 - (e) to hold examinations and grant degrees, certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the University and have satisfied such other requirements as the University may lay down;
 - (f) to grant honorary degrees, fellowships or academic titles;
 - (g) to demand and receive from any student or any other person attending the University for the purpose of instruction such fees as the University may, from time to time, determine subject to the overall directives of the Minister;
 - (h) subject to section 23 of this Bill, to acquire, hold, grant, charge or otherwise deal with or dispose of movable and immovable property wherever situate;
 - (i) to accept gifts, legacies and donations, but without obligation to accept the same for a particular purpose unless it approves the terms and conditions attaching thereto;
 - (j) to enter into contracts, establish trusts, act as trustee, solely or jointly with any other person, and employ and act through agents;
 - (k) to erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, laboratories; lecture halls, halls of residence, refectories, sports grounds, playing fields

and other buildings or things necessary or suitable or convenient for any of the objects of the University;

- (l) to hold public lectures and to undertake printing, publishing and book-selling;
 - (m) subject to any limitations on conditions imposed by statute, to invest any money appertaining to the University by way of endowment, not being immediately required for current expenditure, in any investments or securities or the purchase or improvement of land, with power from time to time to vary any such investments and to deposit any money for the time being not invested with any bank on deposit or current account;
 - (n) to borrow, whether on interest or not if need be upon the security of any or all of the property, movable or immovable, of the University, such moneys as the Council may, from time to time, in its discretion find it necessary or expedient to borrow or to guarantee any loan, advances or credit facilities;
 - (o) to do anything which it is authorized or required by this "Bill" or by statute to do; and
 - (p) to do all such acts or things, incidental to the foregoing powers, as may advance the objects of the University.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill and of the statutes and without prejudice to section 9 (2) of this Bill, the powers conferred on the University by subsection (1) of this section shall be exercisable on behalf of the University by the Council or by the Senate or in any other manner, which may be authorized by statute.
 - (3) The power of the University to establish further campuses and colleges within the University shall be exercisable by statute and not otherwise (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 5: Functions of the Chancellor.

- (1) The Chancellor shall, in relation to the University, take precedence before all other members of the University and when he is present shall preside at all meetings of Convocation held for conferring degrees.
- (2) Every proposal to confer an honorary degree shall be subject to the confirmation of the Chancellor.
- (3) The Chancellor shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be conferred or imposed on him by this Bill or the statutes (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 6: Functions of the Pro- Chancellor.

- (1) The Pro-Chancellor shall, in relation to the University, take precedence before all other members of the University, except the Chancellor and except the Vice-Chancellor when acting as chairman of Congregation or Convocation and the Pro-Chancellor shall, when he is present, be the chairman at all meetings of the Council.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Pro-Chancellor shall hold office for a period of five years beginning with the date of his appointment (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 7: Composition of the Council.**

- (1) The Council of each University shall consist of —
 - (a) the Pro-Chancellor;
 - (b) the Vice-Chancellor;
 - (c) the Deputy Vice-Chancellor(s);
 - (d) one person from the Ministry responsible for education;
 - (e) four persons representing a variety of interests and broadly representative of the whole Federation to be appointed by the President;
 - (f) four persons appointed by the Senate from among its members;
 - (g) two persons appointed by the Congregation from among its members; and
 - (h) one person appointed by Convocation from among its members (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 8: Functions of the Council and its Finance and General Purposes Committee.**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill relating to the Visitor, the Council shall be the governing body of each University and shall be charged with the general control and superintendence of the policy, finance and property of the University.
- (2) There shall be a committee of the Council to be known as the Finance and General Purposes Committee, which shall, subject to the directions of the Council, exercise control over the property and expenditure of the University and perform such other functions of the Council as the Council may, from time to time, delegate to it.
- (3) Provision shall be made by statute with respect to the constitution of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

- (4) The Council shall ensure that proper accounts of the University are kept and that the accounts of the University are audited annually by an independent firm of auditors approved by the Council, and that an annual report shall be published by the University together with certified copies of the said accounts as audited.
- (5) Subject to this Bill and the statutes, the Council and the Finance and General Purposes Committee may each make rules for regulating their own procedure.
- (6) Rules made under subsection (5) of this section by the Finance and General Purposes Committee shall not come into force unless approved by the Council; and in so far and to the extent that any rules so made by that Committee conflict with any directions given by the Council (whether before or after the coming into force of the rules in question), the direction of the Council shall prevail.
- (7) There shall be paid to the members of the Council, the Finance and General Purposes Committee respectively and of any other committee set up by the Council an allowance in respect of travelling and other reasonable expenses, at such rates as may, from time to time, be fixed by the Minister.
- (8) The Council shall meet as and when necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill and shall meet at least three times in every year.
- (9) If requested in writing by any five members of the Council the Chairman shall within 28 days after the receipt of such request call a meeting of the Council.
- (10) Any request made under subsection (9) of this section shall specify the business to be considered at the meeting and a business not so specified shall not be transacted at the meeting (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 9: Functions of the Senate.

- (1) Subject to section 8 of this Bill and subsections (3) and (4) of this section and to the of this Bill relating to the Visitor, it shall be the general function of the Senate to organize and control the teaching by the University, the admission (where no other enactment provides to the contrary, of students) and the discipline of students; and to promote research at the University.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section and subject as there mentioned, it shall in particular be the function of the Senate to make provision for-
 - (a) the establishment and organization and control of campuses, colleges, schools, institutes and other teaching and research units of the University and allocation of responsibility for different branches of learning "subject to the approval of Council and the National Universities Commission";
 - (b) the organization and control of courses of study in the University and of the examinations held in conjunction with those courses,

- including the appointment of examiners, both internal and external;
- (c) the award of degrees, and such other qualifications as may be prescribed, in connection with examinations held as aforesaid;
 - (d) the making of recommendations to the Council with respect to the award to any person of an honorary fellowship or degree or the title of professor emeritus;
 - (e) the establishment, organization and control of halls of residence and similar institutions at the University;
 - (f) the supervision of the welfare of students at the University and the regulation of their conduct;
 - (g) the granting of fellowships, scholarships, prizes and similar awards in so far as the awards are within the control of the University; and
 - (h) determining what description of dress shall be academic dress for the purposes of the University and regulating the use of academic dress.
- (3) The Senate shall not establish any new campus, college, school, department, institute or other teaching and research units of the University without the approval of the Council.
 - (4) Subject to this Bill and statutes, the Senate may make regulations for the purpose of exercising any function conferred on it either by the foregoing provisions of this section or otherwise or for the purpose of making provisions for any matter for which provision by regulations is authorized or required by this Bill or by statute.
 - (5) Regulations shall provide that at least one of the persons appointed as the examiners at each final or professional examination held in conjunction with any course of study at the University, as may be prescribed by the Senate from time to time, is not a teacher at the University but is a teacher of the branch of learning to which the course relates at some other university of high repute or a person engaged in practicing the profession in a reputable organization or institution.
 - (6) Subject to a right of appeal to the Council from a decision of the Senate under this subsection, the Senate may deprive any person of any degree, diploma or other award of the University which has been conferred upon him if after due enquiry he is shown to have been guilty of dishonorable or scandalous conduct in gaining admission into the University or obtaining that award (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 10: Functions of the Vice-Chancellor.

- (1) The Vice-Chancellor shall, in relation to each University, take precedence before all other members of the University, except the Chancellor, and any other person for the time being acting as chairman of the Council.
- (2) Subject to sections 8, 9, and 15 of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor shall have

the general function, in addition to any other functions conferred on him by this Bill or otherwise, of directing the activities of the University and shall be the chief executive and academic officer of the University and *ex-officio* Chairman of the Senate (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — STATUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 11: Powers of the University to make statutes.

- (1) Subject to this Bill, the University may make statutes for any of the following purposes, that is to say —
 - (a) making provision with respect to the composition and constitution of any authority of the University;
 - (b) specifying and regulating the powers and duties of any authority of the University and regulating any other matter connected with the University or any of its authorities;
 - (c) regulating the admission of students (where no other enactment provides to the contrary), and their discipline and welfare;
 - (d) determining whether any particular matter is to be treated as an academic or non-academic matter for the purposes of this Bill and of any statute, regulation or other instrument made thereunder; and
 - (e) making provision for any other matter for which provision by statute is authorized or required by this Bill.
- (2) Subject to section 28 (6) of this Bill, the Interpretation Act shall apply in relation to any statute made under this section as it applies to 3 subsidiary instruments within the meaning of section 29 (1) of that Bill.
- (3) The statute contained in the Schedule to this Bill shall be 5 deemed to have come into force on the commencement of this section 6 of this Bill and shall be deemed to have been made under this section by each University [Schedule].
- (4) The power to make statutes conferred by this section shall not be prejudiced or limited in any way by reason of the inclusion or omission of any matter in or from the statute contained in the Second Schedule to this Bill or any subsequent statute (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 12: Mode of exercising power to make statutes.

- (1) The power of the University to make statutes shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of this section and not otherwise.
- (2) A proposed statute shall not become law unless it has been approved —

- (a) at a meeting of the Senate, by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting; and
 - (b) at a meeting of the Council, by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting.
- (3) A proposed statute may originate either in the Senate or in the Council and may be approved as required by subsection (2) of this section by either one of those bodies before the other.
- (4) A statute which makes provision for or alters the composition or constitution of the Council, the Senate or any other authority of the University shall not come into operation unless it has been approved by the President.
- (5) For the purposes of section 1 (2) of the Interpretation Bill a statute shall be treated as being made on the date on which it is duly approved by the Council after having been approved by the Senate, as the case may be or, in the case of a statute falling within sub- section (4) of this section, on the date on which it is approved by the President.
- (6) In the event of any doubt or dispute arising at any time —
 - (a) as to the meaning of any provision of a statute; or
 - (b) as to whether any matter is for the purpose of this Bill an academic matter as they relate to such doubt or dispute, the matter may be referred to the Visitor, who shall take such advice and make such decision therein as he shall think fit.
- (7) The decision of the Visitor on any matter referred to him under subsection (6) of this section shall be final and binding upon the authorities, staff and students of the University and where any question as to the meaning of any provision of a statute has been decided by the Visitor under that subsection, the question as to the meaning of that provision shall not be entertained by any court of law in Nigeria.
- (8) Nothing in subsection (7) of this section shall affect any power of a court of competent jurisdiction to determine whether any provision of a statute is wholly or partially void as being ultra vires or as being inconsistent with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 13: Proof of statutes.

A statute may be proved in any court by the production of a copy thereto bearing affixed to it a certificate purporting to be signed by the Vice-Chancellor or the secretary to the Council to the effect that the copy is a true copy of a statute of the University (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 14: The Visitor.**

- (1) The President shall be the Visitor of the University.
- (2) The Visitor shall as often as the circumstances may require, not being less than once every five years, conduct a visitation of the University or direct that such a visitation be conducted by such person or persons as the Visitor may deem fit and in respect of any of the affairs of the University.
- (3) It shall be duty of the bodies and persons comprising the University to make available to the Visitor and to any other person conducting a visitation in pursuance of this section, such facilities and assistance as he or they may reasonably require for the purposes of a visitation (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 15: Removal of certain members of Council.**

- (1) If it appears to the Council that a member of the Council (other than the Pro-Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor) should be removed from office on the ground of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office or employment, the Council shall make a recommendation to that effect through the Minister to the President after making such enquiry, if any, as may be considered appropriate, and if the President approves the recommendation he may direct the removal of the person in question from office.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Minister to use his best endeavour to cause a copy of the instrument embodying a direction under subsection (1) of this section to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 16: Removal and discipline of academic, administrative and professional staff.**

- (1) If it appears to the Council that there are reasons for believing that any person employed as a member of the academic, administrative or professional staff of the University, other than Vice-Chancellor, should be removed from his office or employment on the ground of misconduct or of inability to perform the functions of his office or employment, the Council shall —
 - (a) give notice of those reasons to the person in question; afford him an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter;
 - (b) appoint a Staff Disciplinary Committee;
 - (c) and if the Council, after considering the report of the Staff Disciplinary Committee, is satisfied that the person in question should be removed as aforesaid, the Council may so remove him by an instrument in writing signed on the directions of the Council.
- (2) The Vice-Chancellor may, in case of misconduct by a member of staff, which in the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor is prejudicial to the interests of

the University, suspend such member and any such suspension shall forthwith be reported to the Council.

- (3) For good cause, any member of staff may be suspended from his duties or his appointment may be terminated by the Council; and for the purposes of this subsection "good cause" means —
 - (a) conviction for any offence which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office;
 - (b) any physical or mental incapacity which the Council, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office;
 - (c) conduct of a scandalous or other disgraceful nature which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office;
 - (d) conduct which the Council considers to be such as to constitute failure or inability of the person concerned to discharge the functions of his office or to comply with terms and conditions of his service; or
 - (e) conduct which the Council considers to be generally of such nature as to render the continued appointment or service of the person concerned prejudicial or detrimental to the interest of the University.
- (4) Any person suspended pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall be on half pay and the Council shall before the expiration of a period of three months after the date of such suspension consider the case against that person and come to a decision as to —
 - (a) whether to continue such person's suspension and if so on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to him);
 - (b) whether to re-instate such person in which case the Council shall restore his full emoluments with effect from the date of suspension;
 - (c) whether to terminate the appointment of the person concerned in which case such person shall not be entitled to the proportion of his emoluments withheld during the period of suspension; or
 - (d) whether to take such lesser disciplinary action against such person (including the restoration of such proportion of his emoluments as might have been withheld) as the Council may determine.
- (5) In any case where the Council, pursuant to this section, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against a person, the Council shall before the expiration of a period of three months from such decision come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning any such person.
- (6) It shall be the duty of the person by whom an instrument of removal is signed in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section to use his best

endeavour to cause a copy of the instrument to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates.

- (7) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall —
- (a) apply to any directive given by the Visitor in consequence of any visitation; or
 - (b) prevent the Council from making regulations for the discipline of other categories of workers of the University as may be prescribed (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 17: Procedures for staff discipline.

- (1) The Vice-Chancellor or Senate shall constitute an Investigation Panel to determine whether or not a prima facie case has been established against any member of staff.
- (2) The Investigation Panel shall include the President or the chairman of the union to which the staff being investigated belongs.
- (3) The Vice-Chancellor shall constitute a Staff Disciplinary Committee, which shall consist of such members of the Senate as he may determine, to consider the report of the Investigating Panel.
- (4) The report and recommendation of the Staff Disciplinary Committee shall be forwarded to the Council for consideration and decision (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 18: Appointment of external examiners.

The Senate shall appoint external examiners (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 19: Removal of examiners.

- (1) If on the recommendation of the Senate, it appears to the Vice-Chancellor that a person appointed as an examiner for any examination of the University ought to be re- moved from his office or appointment, then except in such cases as may be prescribed, the Vice-Chancellor may, after affording the examiner an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter to the Vice-Chancellor, remove the examiner from the office or appointment by an instrument in writing signed by the Vice-Chancellor.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of regulations made in pursuance of section 9 (5) of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor may, on the recommendation of the Senate, appoint an appropriate person as examiner in place of the examiner removed in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 20: Discipline of students.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where it appears to the Vice-Chancellor that any student of the University has been guilty of misconduct, the Vice-Chancellor may, in consultation with the Senate and, without prejudice to any other disciplinary power conferred on him by statute or regulations, direct that —
 - (a) the student shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in such activities of the University, or make use of such facilities of the University, as may be so specified;
 - (b) the activities of the student shall, during such period as may be specified in the direction, be restricted in such manner as may be so specified;
 - (c) the student be rusticated for such period as may be specified in the direction; or
 - (d) the student be expelled from the University.
- (2) Where a direction is given under subsection (1)(c) or (d) of this section in respect of any student, that student may, within the prescribed period and in the prescribed manner, appeal to the Council; and where such an appeal is brought, the Council shall after causing such inquiry to be made in the matter as the Council considers just, confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Council thinks fit.
- (3) The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought in pursuance of subsection (2) of this section shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending.
- (4) The Vice-Chancellor may delegate his powers under this section to a Disciplinary Committee consisting of such members of the University as he may nominate.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the restriction or termination of a student's activities at the University otherwise than on the ground of misconduct.
- (6) Without prejudice to the provision of subsection (1) of this section, nothing shall prevent the Vice-Chancellor from taking an immediate disciplinary action against a student where he deems fit, and report thereafter to the Senate.
- (7) It is hereby declared that a direction under subsection (1) (a) of this section may be combined with a direction under subsection (1) (b) of this section.
- (8) No staff or student shall resort to a law court without proof of having exhausted the integral avenues for settling disputes or grievances or for seeking redress.
- (9) The Visitor shall be the final arbiter on staff and student discipline, and his decision shall not be contestable in any court of law in Nigeria.

- (10) Nothing in this subsection shall affect any power of a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the fundamental right of any aggrieved citizen as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 21: Exclusion of discrimination on account of race, religion, etc.

No person shall be required to satisfy the requirements as to any of the following matters, that is to say, race (including ethnic grounding), sex, place of birth or family origin, or religious or political persuasion, as a condition of becoming or continuing to be a student at the University, the holder of any degree of the University or of any appointment or employment at the University or a member of any body established by virtue of this Bill; and no person shall be subjected to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in relation to the University, by reference to any of those matters (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 22: Restriction on disposal of land by the University.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Land Use Bill, the University shall not dispose of or charge any land or an interest in any land (including any land transferred to the University by this Bill) except either with the prior written consent either general or special, of the President (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 23: Quorum and Procedure of bodies established by this Bill.

Except as may be otherwise provided by statute or by regulations, the quorum and procedure of any body of persons established by this Bill shall be as determined by that body (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 24: Appointment of committees, etc.

- (1) Anybody of persons established by this Bill shall, without prejudice to the generality of the powers of that body, have power to appoint committees, which need not consist exclusively of members of that body and to authorize a committee established by it —
- (a) to exercise, on its behalf, such of its functions as it may determine;
- (b) to co-opt members and may direct whether or not co-opted members (if any) shall be entitled to vote in that committee.
- (2) Any two or more such bodies may arrange for the holding of joint meetings

of those bodies or for the appointment of committees consisting of members of those bodies or any of them and either of dealing with it or of reporting on it to those bodies or any of them.

- (3) Except as may be otherwise provided by statute or by regulations, the quorum and procedure of a committee established or meeting held in pursuance of this section shall be such as may be determined by the body or bodies which have decided to establish the committee or hold the meeting.
- (4) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall be construed as —
 - (a) enabling statutes to be made otherwise than in accordance with section 13 of this Bill; or
 - (b) enabling the Senate to empower any other body to make regulations or to award degrees or other qualifications.
- (5) The Pro-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor shall be members of every committee of which the members are wholly or partly appointed by the Council (other than a committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of any officer in question); and the Vice-Chancellor shall be a member of the Council and the Vice-Chancellor shall be a member of every committee of which the members are wholly or partly appointed by the Senate (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 25: Retiring age of academic staff of the University.

- (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Pensions Act, the compulsory retiring age of an academic staff of a University shall be 65 years except for the professor, which is 70 years.
- (2) A law or rule requiring a person to retire from the public service after serving for 35 years shall not apply to an academic staff of the University (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 26: Special provisions relating to pension of professors.

A person who retires as a professor having served —

- (a) a minimum period of fifteen years as a professor in the University or continuously in the service of a university in Nigeria up to the retiring age; and
- (b) who during the period of service was absent from the University only on approved national or University assignments, shall be entitled to pension at a rate equivalent to his last annual salary and such allowances as the Council may, from time to time, determine as qualifying for pension and gratuity, in addition to any other retirement benefits to which he may be entitled (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 27: Miscellaneous administrative provisions.

- (1) The seal of each University shall be such as may be determined by the Council and approved by the Chancellor, and the affixing of the seal shall be authenticated by any member of the Council and by the Vice Chancellor, secretary to the Council or any other person authorized by statute.
- (2) Any document purporting to be a document executed under the seal of the University shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.
- (3) Any contract or instrument, which if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the University by any person generally or specifically authorized to do so by the Council.
- (4) The validity of any proceedings of any body established in pursuance of this Bill shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the body, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the body or by reason that any person not entitled to do proceedings.
- (5) Any member of any such body who has a personal interest in any matter proposed to be considered by that body shall forthwith disclose his interest to the body and shall not vote on any question relating to that matter.
- (6) Nothing in section 12 of the Interpretation Act (which provides for the application in relation to subordinate legislation of certain incidental provisions) shall apply to statutes or regulations made in pursuance of this Bill.
- (7) The power conferred by this Bill on anybody to make statutes or regulations shall include power to revoke or vary any statute (including the statute contained in the Second Schedule of this Bill) or any regulation by a subsequent statute, or, as the case may be, by a subsequent regulation and statute and regulations may make different provisions in reaction to different circumstances.
- (8) No stamp duty or other duty shall be payable in respect of any transfer of property to the University by virtue of any provision of this Bill.
- (9) Any notice or other instrument authorized to be served by virtue of this Bill may, without prejudice to any other mode of service, be served by post (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 28: Interpretation.

- (1) In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires —

"Campus" means any campus which may be established by the University (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"College" means any college which may be established by the University (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency).

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

"Council" means the Council established by this Bill for the University (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency).

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

"graduate" means a person on whom a degree (other than an honorary degree) has been conferred by the University (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency).

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

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for education (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency).

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

"notice" means notice in writing (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency).

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

"office" does not include the Visitor (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency).

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

"prescribed" means prescribed by statutes or regulations (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency).

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

"professor" means a person designated as a professor of the University in accordance with provisions made in that behalf by statute or regulations (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency).

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

"property" includes rights, liabilities and obligations (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"regulations" means regulations made by the Senate or the Council (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Senate" means the Senate of the University established pursuant to section 3 (1) (c) of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"statute" means a statute made by the University under section 12 of this Bill and in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"the statutes" means all such statutes as are in force from time to time (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"teacher" means a person holding a full-time appointment as a member of the teaching or research staff of the University (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"undergraduate" means a person in *statu-pupillari* at the University other than —

- (a) a graduate; and
- (b) a person of such description as may be prescribed for the purposes of this definition; and (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"University" means any of the Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Bende established under section 2 of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar*

Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency).

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

- (2) It is hereby declared that where in any provisions of this Bill it is laid down that proposals are to be submitted or a recommendation is to be made by one authority to another through one or more intermediate authorities, it shall be the duty of every such intermediate authority to forward any proposals or recommendations received by it in pursuance of that provision to the appropriate authority, but any such intermediate authority may, if it thinks fit, forward therewith its own comments thereon (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 29: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

SCHEDULE

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Chancellor

1. (1) The Chancellor shall be appointed by the President of Nigeria.
- (2) The Chancellor shall hold office for a period of 4 years.
- (3) If it appears to the Visitor that the Chancellor should be removed from his/her office on the ground of misconduct or of inability to perform the functions of his office, the Visitor may by notice in the Federal Gazette remove the Chancellor from office.

The Pro-Chancellor

2. (1) The Pro-Chancellor shall be appointed or removed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Pro-Chancellor shall hold office for a period of 4 years beginning with the date of his/her appointment.

The Vice-Chancellor

3. (1) There shall be a Vice-Chancellor of the University who shall be appointed by the "Council" in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the post of a Vice-Chancellor, the Council shall —
 - (a) advertise the vacancy in a reputable journal or a widely read newspaper in Nigeria, specifying —

- (i) the qualities of the persons who may apply for the post, and
 - (ii) the terms and conditions of service applicable to the post, and thereafter draw up a short list of suitable candidates for the post for consideration;
 - (b) constitute a search team consisting of —
 - (i) a member of the Council, who is not a member of the Senate, as chairman,
 - (ii) two members of the Senate who are not members of the Council, one of whom shall be a professor, and
 - (iii) two members of Congregation who are not members of the Council, one of whom shall be a professor, to identify and nominate for consideration, suitable persons who are not likely to apply for the post on their own volition because they feel that it is not proper to do so.
- (3) A joint Council and Senate Selection Board consisting of —
 - (a) the Pro-Chancellor, as chairman;
 - (b) two members of the Council, not being members of the Senate;
 - (c) two members of the Senate who are professors, but who were not members of the Search Team, shall consider the candidates and persons on the short list drawn up under subparagraph (2) of this paragraph through an examination of their curriculum vitae and interaction with them, and recommend to the Council suitable candidates for further consideration.
- (4) The Council shall select three candidates from among the candidates recommended to it under subparagraph (3) of this paragraph and may indicate its order of preference stating the reasons therefore and forward the names to the "Senate".
- (5) The "Council" may appoint as Vice-Chancellor anyone of the candidates recommended in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (4) of this paragraph.
- (6) The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a single term of five years only on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment.
- (7) For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of subparagraph (6) of this paragraph shall —
 - (a) only be applicable to those appointed to the office of Vice-Chancellor after 1 January, 1993;
 - (b) not confer on a person serving a first term of office as Vice Chancellor before 1st January, 1993 any right to renewal of the appointment for a further term of four years.
- (8) The Vice-Chancellor may be removed from office by the Visitor after due consultation with the Council and the Senate acting through the Minister of Education.

- (9) When the proposal for the removal of the Vice-Chancellor is made, the Council shall constitute a joint committee of Council and Senate consisting of —
 - (i) three members of the Council one of whom shall be the Chairman of the committee, a
 - (ii) two members of the Senate, provided that where the ground for removal is infirmity of the body or mind, the Council shall seek appropriate medical opinion.
- (10) The Committee shall conduct investigation into the allegations made against the Vice-Chancellor and shall report its findings to the Council.
- (11) The Council may where the allegations are proved remove the Vice-Chancellor or apply any other disciplinary action it may deem fit and notify the Visitor accordingly provided that a Vice-Chancellor who is removed shall have right of appeal to the Visitor.
- (12) There shall be no sole administration in any Nigerian University.
- (13) In any case of a vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chancellor, the Council shall appoint an acting Vice-Chancellor on recommendation of the Senate.
- (14) An acting Vice-Chancellor in all circumstances shall not be in office for more than 6 months".

Deputy Vice-Chancellors

- 4. (1) There shall be for the University such number of Deputy Vice Chancellors as the Council may, from time to time, deem necessary for the proper administration of the University.
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall forward to the Senate a list of two candidates for each post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor that is vacant.
- (3) The Senate shall select for each vacant post one candidate from each list forwarded to it under subparagraph (2) of this paragraph and forward his name to the Council for confirmation.
- (4) A Deputy Vice-Chancellor shall —
 - (a) assist the Vice-Chancellor in the performance of his functions;
 - (b) act in the place of the Vice-Chancellor when the post of the Vice-Chancellor is vacant or if the Vice-Chancellor is, for any reason, absent or unable to perform his functions as Vice-Chancellor; and
 - (c) perform such other functions as the Vice-Chancellor or the Council may, from time to time, assign to him.
- (5) A Deputy Vice-Chancellor —
 - (a) shall hold office for a period of two years beginning from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and

- (b) may be re-appointed for one further period of 2 years and no more.
- (6) A Deputy Vice-Chancellor may be removed from office for good cause by the Council acting on the recommendations of the Vice-Chancellor and Senate;
- (7) "Good cause" for the purpose of this section means gross misconduct or inability to discharge the functions of his office arising from infirmity of body or mind.

Office of the Registrar

- 5. (1) There shall be for the University a Registrar, who shall be the chief administrative officer of the University and shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administrative work of the University except as regards matters for which the Bursar is responsible in accordance with paragraph 6(2) of this Schedule.
- (2) The person holding the office of the Registrar shall by virtue of that office be secretary to the Council, the Senate, Congregation and Convocation.
- (3) The Registrar shall hold office for such period and on such terms as to the emoluments of his/her office and otherwise as may be specified.

Other principal officers of the University

- 6. (1) There shall be for each University the following principal officers, in addition to the Registrar, that is —
 - (a) the Bursar; and
 - (b) the University Librarian, who shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Selection Board constituted under paragraph 8 of this Schedule.
- (2) The Bursar shall be the chief financial officer of the University and be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration and control of the financial affairs of the University.
- (3) The University Librarian shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the administration of the university library and the co-ordination of the library services in the University and its campuses, colleges, faculties, schools, departments, institutes and other teaching or research units.
- (4) The Bursar and Librarian shall hold office for such period and on such terms as to the emoluments of their offices and otherwise as may be specified.
- (5) Any question as to the scope of the responsibilities of the aforesaid officers shall be determined by the Vice-Chancellor.

Selection Board for other principal officers

- 7. (1) There shall be, for the University, a Selection Board for the appointment of principal officers, other than the Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Vice-Chancellor, which shall consist of —
 - (a) the Pro-Chancellor, as chairman;
 - (b) the Vice-Chancellor;

- (c) four members of the Council not being members of the Senate; and
 - (d) two members of the Senate.
- (2) The functions, procedure and other matters relating to the Selection Board constituted under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall be as the Council may, from time to time, determine.
- (3) The Registrar, Bursar and Librarian shall hold office for such period and on such terms as to the emoluments of their offices and otherwise as may be specified in their letters of appointment.

Resignation and re-appointment

8. (1) Any officer mentioned in the foregoing provisions of this Schedule may resign his office —
- (a) in the case of the Chancellor, by notice to the President; and
 - (b) in any other case, by notice to the Council and the Council shall immediately notify the Minister in the case of the Vice-Chancellor.
- (2) Subject to paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Schedule, a person who has ceased to hold an office so mentioned otherwise than by removal for misconduct shall be eligible for re-appointment to that office (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Bende in Abia State (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende; to Make Comprehensive Provisions for Due Management and Administration; and for Related Matters (HB. 25) (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on University Education on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 25) and approved Clauses 1 - 29, 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.

19. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 6 February, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.02 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker