



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 5 June, 2024

1. The House met at 11.04 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 29 May, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the presence of Staff and Students of Premiere Academy, Lugbe, Abuja.
5. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Taguba S. Aboje (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Daniel Oneal Ejigbo family, on alleged brutal murder of their son at the Veritas University, Abuja, on 30 April, 2024, was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali (*Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Tunji Ogunrinde & Company (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Opeoluwa Odusan, on alleged defamation of character and breach of fundamental right by the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), was presented and laid by Hon. Adedeji Stanley Olajide (*Ibadan North West/Ibadan South West Federal Constituency*).
 - (iii) The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi Isolo II Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Olamilekan Akinduro and 2 others, on alleged fraudulent practices by Oxford International Group;
 - (b) Plantation City Estate Property Owners and Residents Association, on alleged fraudulent acts by Sam Ogrih and 2 others;

- (iv) A petition from Ukpai Eni and 1 other staff on alleged harassment and victimization by the Management of the Academy of Nigeria, Oron, Akwa Ibom State, was presented and laid by Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa (*Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from Emiyarei Bertram Ikuru and 1 other, on alleged refusal to re-validate their unused flight ticket by Value Jet Airline, was presented and laid by Hon. Dominic Okafor (*Aguata Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) A petition from U. L. Osa-Uwagie & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of the People and Council of Orogho Community, Orhionmwon Local Government Area, Edo State, on alleged breach of agreement on their farmland by Presco Plc, was presented and laid by Hon. Billy Osawaru Famous (*Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*);
- (vii) A petition from Ilori Adeola, on his stagnation on the post of Administrative Officer II (Ref. No: HCDF/emo/537/T37) for a period of fifteen (15) years by the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, was presented and laid by Hon. Kolawole Akinlayo Davidson (*Ido-Osi/Moba/Illejemeje Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need to Review Security Approach to Address Banditry Attacks in the nation:***
Hon. Sada Soli (*Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency and 24 Others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Review Security Approach to Address Banditry Attacks in the nation:

The House:

Notes that Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Kaduna and Katsina States have been plagued by escalating banditry attacks, resulting in loss of lives, kidnapping for ransom, displacement of communities and disruption of socio-economic activities;

Also notes that a number of State Governments across the Country have allocated significant funds to augment the operations of the security-agencies in combating, kidnapping, attacks by unknown gunmen banditry and restoring peace in their respective States;

Recalls that the collaboration and coordination among the State Governments, Security agencies and relevant Stakeholders to develop holistic and sustainable solutions to the challenges posed by bandits and other security challenges in Northwest and Nigeria in general;

Cognizant that the Governors of the States in North-West affirm their commitment to supporting an acceptable and workable initiatives that promote peace, security and development in the region and pledge to work towards fostering a safe and secure environment for all our people;

Concerned that the incessant banditry attacks on Communities in North-West will significantly impact food production and agricultural activities, jeopardizing food security and livelihoods of the people in the affected States of the region in the coming rainy season;

Worried that concerns have been raised regarding the effectiveness and long-term implications of negotiating with bandits, including potential legitimization of criminal activities and incentivizing further acts of terrorism;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to direct for a thorough review and evaluation of the strategies employed by Security Agencies through effective collaboration with the State Governments in the region;
- (ii) also urge the Federal and State Governments in the North West to reconsider their approach to negotiation with criminals and explore alternative strategies to address the root causes of insecurity, such as improving law enforcement, enhancing Community Policing and promoting socio-economic development in the affected States (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency and 24 Others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the word “Region”, *insert* the words “ Jigawa and Kano States” (*Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (i) as amended, *leave out* the words “in the region”, and *insert* the words “all the entire Northern Region” (*Hon. Yusuf Kure Baraje — Bosso/Paikoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (iii) In Prayer (i) as amended, *leave out* the words “Northern Region”, and *insert* the word “nation” (*Hon. George Ozodinobi Ibezimako — Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Kaduna and Katsina States have been plagued by escalating banditry attacks, resulting in loss of lives, kidnapping for ransom, displacement of communities and disruption of socio-economic activities;

Also noted that a number of State Governments across the Country have allocated significant funds to augment the operations of the security-agencies in combating, kidnapping, attacks by unknown gunmen banditry and restoring peace in their respective States;

Recalled that the collaboration and coordination among the State Governments, Security agencies and relevant Stakeholders to develop holistic and sustainable solutions to the challenges posed by bandits and other security challenges in Northwest and Nigeria in general;

Cognizant that the Governors of the States in North-West affirm their commitment to supporting an acceptable and workable initiatives that promote peace, security and development in the region and pledge to work towards fostering a safe and secure environment for all our people;

Concerned that the incessant banditry attacks on Communities in North-West will significantly impact food production and agricultural activities, jeopardizing food security and livelihoods of the people in the affected States of the region in the coming rainy season;

Worried that concerns have been raised regarding the effectiveness and long-term implications of negotiating with bandits, including potential legitimization of criminal activities and incentivizing further acts of terrorism;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to direct for a thorough review and evaluation of the strategies employed by Security Agencies through effective collaboration with the State Governments in the nation;
- (ii) also urge the Federal and State Governments in the North West to reconsider their approach to negotiation with criminals and explore alternative strategies to address the root causes of insecurity, such as improving law enforcement, enhancing Community Policing and promoting socio-economic development in the affected States (**HR. 244/06/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) ***Death of Mr Ebuka Nwoko in South Africa and Other Cases of Unlawful Killings/torture of Nigerians in the Diaspora:***

Hon. Tochukwu Chinedu Okere (*Owerri Municipal/Owerri West/Owerri North Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 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.

Death of Mr Ebuka Nwoko in South Africa and Other Cases of Unlawful Killings/torture of Nigerians in the Diaspora:

The House:

Notes with grave concern the recent reports of unlawful killings, torture, and inhumane treatment of Nigerian citizens living in South Africa;

Informed that Mr Ebuka Nwoko, 43, well known as Jeff, was allegedly murdered while in the custody of South African security officials in Danielskuil, Northern Cape, South Africa;

Expresses profound disappointment and condemnation of these avoidable actions by members of the South African Police Service (SAPS), which are a violation of human rights and the rule of law;

Aware that section 11 of the South African Constitution guarantees the right to life and as such, upholds the dignity of human life; hence being a democratic state, it is obligated to treat all people with dignity and afford full protection of the law, regardless of nationality, colour, or creed, especially by law enforcement officers;

Concerned that the recent tragic and painful death of Mr. Ebuka Nwoko, a 43 year-old Nigerian allegedly murdered while in the custody of South African security officials, is yet another harrowing example of the severe mistreatment fellow compatriots face overseas;

Saddened that Nigerian lives are continuously devalued and disregarded, even in nations that claim to uphold democratic values and the rule of law, South Africa, a nation we once looked to as a beacon of hope and progress, now stands as a stark reminder of the systemic injustice and abuse our people suffer abroad;

Believes that it cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the plight of citizens in the Diaspora. Their cries for help and justice can no longer go unanswered. Decisive action must be taken to protect the lives, rights, and welfare of all Nigerians, regardless of where they reside;

Emphasizes the need to engage with the relevant authorities in South Africa, including the South African Government and law enforcement agencies, to ensure that justice is served, and measures are taken to properly investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Ebuka Nwoko and to take a stand against the systemic injustice and abuse Nigerian citizens at home and abroad;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honor of the deceased — Mr Ebuka Nwoko;
- (ii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to prioritize the protection of the lives of Nigerians living abroad and leave no stone unturned in pursuit of justice for our compatriots who have suffered injustice and oppression in the hands of foreign nationals;
- (iii) mandate the House Committee on Diaspora to investigate the murder of Mr Ebuka Nwoko in South Africa and other cases of unlawful killings/torture of Nigerians living in Diaspora and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Tochukwu Chinedu Okere — Owerri Municipal/Owerri West/Owerri North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with grave concern the recent reports of unlawful killings, torture, and inhumane treatment of Nigerian citizens living in South Africa;

Informed that Mr Ebuka Nwoko, 43, well known as Jeff, was allegedly murdered while in the custody of South African security officials in Danielskuil, Northern Cape, South Africa;

Expressed profound disappointment and condemnation of these avoidable actions by members of the South African Police Service (SAPS), which are a violation of human rights and the rule of law;

Aware that section 11 of the South African Constitution guarantees the right to life and as such, upholds the dignity of human life; hence being a democratic state, it is obligated to treat

all people with dignity and afford full protection of the law, regardless of nationality, colour, or creed, especially by law enforcement officers;

Concerned that the recent tragic and painful death of Mr. Ebuka Nwoko, a 43 year-old Nigerian allegedly murdered while in the custody of South African security officials, is yet another harrowing example of the severe mistreatment fellow compatriots face overseas;

Saddened that Nigerian lives are continuously devalued and disregarded, even in nations that claim to uphold democratic values and the rule of law, South Africa, a nation we once looked to as a beacon of hope and progress, now stands as a stark reminder of the systemic injustice and abuse our people suffer abroad;

Believed that it cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the plight of citizens in the Diaspora. Their cries for help and justice can no longer go unanswered. Decisive action must be taken to protect the lives, rights, and welfare of all Nigerians, regardless of where they reside;

Emphasized the need to engage with the relevant authorities in South Africa, including the South African Government and law enforcement agencies, to ensure that justice is served, and measures are taken to properly investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Ebuka Nwoko and to take a stand against the systemic injustice and abuse Nigerian citizens at home and abroad;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honor of the deceased — Mr Ebuka Nwoko;
- (ii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to prioritize the protection of the lives of Nigerians living abroad and leave no stone unturned in pursuit of justice for our compatriots who have suffered injustice and oppression in the hands of foreign nationals;
- (iii) mandate the House Committee on Diaspora to investigate the murder of Mr Ebuka Nwoko in South Africa and other cases of unlawful killings/torture of Nigerians living in Diaspora and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 245/06/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(iii) Killings and Kidnappings in Panskshin, Kanke and Kanam Local Government Areas of Plateau State:

Hon. Yusuf Aadamu Gagdi (*Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam 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.

Killings and Kidnappings in Panskshin, Kanke and Kanam Local Government Areas of Plateau State:

The House:

Notes that there are several documented incidents of deliberate threats, kidnapping and assaults targeting members of Panskshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency of Plateau State;

Also notes that on 17 February, 2024, it was reported that the APC publicity secretary in the person of Sylvanus Namang was shot in the head at Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State and he died as a result of the injury sustained from the attack;

Further notes that the lifeless body of a former member of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Sunday Muchen, was found in Bokkos forest in Plateau State;

Still notes the kidnapping of a priest and the alleged involvement of the financial secretary of the church and other members in this act, as well as the abduction of lecturers of the Federal College of Education Pankshin (now known as Federal University of Education, Pankshin) in addition to several killings and kidnaping activities in Panskshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency;

Concerned that Kanam forest has become a safe haven for bandits and Boko Haram terrorists as a result of influx from other states that are affected by banditry and Boko Haram activities;

Also concerned that attacks in the forest of Panskshin/Kanke/Kanam and kidnappings of local Farmers have been going on unabated;

Worried that members of these communities are highly vulnerable due to inadequacy of Police, Civil Defence and other security personnel in these areas;

Disturbed that reports of diverse acts of violence have been made with such frequency that failure to address them portend serious danger;

Resolves to;

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour the souls of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to establish two military bases in Kanam; one each in Gun-Gagdi and Garga axis respectively;
- (iii) call on the Inspector-General of Police and the Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps to deploy additional personnel to the affected areas in Gun-Gagdi, Garga, Pankshin and Kanke;
- (iv) also urge the Director-General, Department of State Services to conduct a security operation in the area to flush out bandits and Boko Haram members;
- (v) also call on the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and the Director-General of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of various attacks who are in IDP camps in Panskshin, Kanke and Kanam Local Government Areas;
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, Army, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi — Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that there are several documented incidents of deliberate threats, kidnapping and assaults targeting members of Panskshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency of Plateau State;

Also noted that on 17 February, 2024, it was reported that the APC publicity secretary in the person of Sylvanus Namang was shot in the head at Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State and he died as a result of the injury sustained from the attack;

Further noted that the lifeless body of one of a former member of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Sunday Muchen, was found in Bokkos forest in Plateau State;

Still noted the kidnapping of a priest and the alleged involvement of the financial secretary of the church and other members in this act, as well as the abduction of lecturers of the Federal College of Education Pankshin (now known as Federal University of Education, Pankshin) in addition to several killings and kidnaping activities in Panskshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency;

Concerned that Kanam forest has become a safe haven for bandits and Boko Haram terrorists as a result of influx from other states that are affected by banditry and Boko Haram activities;

Also concerned that attacks in the forest of Panskshin/Kanke/Kanam and kidnappings of local Farmers have been going on unabated;

Worried that members of these communities are highly vulnerable due to inadequacy of Police, Civil Defence and other security personnel in these areas;

Disturbed that reports of diverse acts of violence have been made with such frequency that failure to address them portend serious danger;

Resolved to;

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour the souls of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to establish two military bases in Kanam; one each in Gun-Gagdi and Garga axis respectively;
- (iii) call on the Inspector-General of Police and the Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps to deploy additional personnel to the affected areas in Gun-Gagdi, Garga, Pankshin and Kanke;
- (iv) also urge the Director-General, Department of State Services to conduct a security operation in the area to flush out bandits and Boko Haram members;
- (v) also call on the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and the Director-General of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of various attacks who are in IDP camps in Panskshin, Kanke and Kanam Local Government Areas;
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, Army, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 246/06/2024**).

A minute silence was 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. Billy Famous Osawaru — Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (iv) ***Alleged Misappropriation and Illegal Expenditure of Frontier Exploration Fund by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) Without the Prior Approval of the National Assembly as Required by the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021:***

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.

Alleged Misappropriation and Illegal Expenditure of Frontier Exploration Fund by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) Without the Prior Approval of the National Assembly as Required by the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021:

The House:

Notes that section 4 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowers the National Assembly to make laws for the order and good government of the federation or any part thereof;

Also notes that section 88 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowers the National Assembly to conduct investigations into the activities of any authority executing or administering laws made by the National Assembly;

Aware that Section 9 (4) of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 (PIA) establishes the Frontier Exploration Fund to be 30% of NNPC Limited's profit oil and gas as in the production profit sharing and risk service contracts;

Also aware that section 9 (5) of the Act, mandates NNPC Limited to solely utilize the Frontier Exploration Fund for the development of frontier acreages and utilize the funds to carry out exploration and development activities in the frontier acreages to carry out exploration and development activities in the frontier acreages subject to appropriation by the National Assembly;

Informed that the NNPC Limited has consistently accessed and expended funds from the Frontier Exploration Fund without prior appropriation and approval by the National Assembly as required by the Act;

Also informed that hundreds of millions of dollars have been irregularly withdrawn from this Fund and expended on white elephant projects, unauthorized and illegal projects that appear patently illegal and in contravention of extant laws and due process requirements under the Constitution and the PIA;

Disturbed that this alleged conduct by NNPC Limited grossly undermines the oversight powers of the National Assembly over the expenditure of public funds as enshrined in the

Constitution. It also represents an affront to the principles of transparency, accountability and probity in the management of public finances;

Emphasizes that such brazen acts of illegality, if proven, cannot be condoned under any circumstances as they breed a culture of impunity, undermine our laws, and sabotage our collective efforts at institutionalizing fiscal discipline and good governance across all sectors;

Acknowledges that this is a grave financial misconduct and has far-reaching implications on effective conduct of oversight and enforcement of compliance with all extant laws, including the PIA which was enacted in pursuit of transparency and accountability in Nigeria's petroleum industry. It is thus incumbent on the House, as representatives of the Nigerian people, to take prompt action to investigate this matter and ensure that all perpetrators are brought to book;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), (Midstream), and Financial crimes to investigate the alleged misappropriation and illegal expenditure of frontier exploration funds by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited and to report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Billy Famous Osawaru — Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in the Prayer, and *insert* as follows:

“mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to investigate the alleged misappropriation and illegal expenditure of frontier exploration funds by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited and report within four weeks” (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that section 4 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowers the National Assembly to make laws for the order and good government of the federation or any part thereof;

Also noted that section 88 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowers the National Assembly to conduct investigations into the activities of any authority executing or administering laws made by the National Assembly;

Aware that Section 9 (4) of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 (PIA) establishes the Frontier Exploration Fund to be 30% of NNPC Limited's profit oil and gas as in the production profit sharing and risk service contracts;

Also aware that section 9 (5) of the Act, mandates NNPC Limited to solely utilize the Frontier Exploration Fund for the development of frontier acreages and utilize the funds to carry out exploration and development activities in the frontier acreages to carry out exploration and development activities in the frontier acreages subject to appropriation by the National Assembly;

Informed that the NNPC Limited has consistently accessed and expended funds from the Frontier Exploration Fund without prior appropriation and approval by the National Assembly as required by the Act;

Also informed that hundreds of millions of dollars have been irregularly withdrawn from this Fund and expended on white elephant projects, unauthorized and illegal projects that appear patently illegal and in contravention of extant laws and due process requirements under the Constitution and the PIA;

Disturbed that this alleged conduct by NNPC Limited grossly undermines the oversight powers of the National Assembly over the expenditure of public funds as enshrined in the Constitution. It also represents an affront to the principles of transparency, accountability and probity in the management of public finances;

Emphasized that such brazen acts of illegality, if proven, cannot be condoned under any circumstances as they breed a culture of impunity, undermine our laws, and sabotage our collective efforts at institutionalizing fiscal discipline and good governance across all sectors;

Acknowledged that this is a grave financial misconduct and has far-reaching implications on effective conduct of oversight and enforcement of compliance with all extant laws, including the PIA which was enacted in pursuit of transparency and accountability in Nigeria's petroleum industry. It is thus incumbent on the House, as representatives of the Nigerian people, to take prompt action to investigate this matter and ensure that all perpetrators are brought to book;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to investigate the alleged misappropriation and illegal expenditure of frontier exploration funds by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 247/06/2024**).

(v) ***Incessant and Gruesome Killing of Military Personnel on Peace Mission Across the Country:***

Hon. Makki Abubakar Yalleman (*Mallam Madori/Kaugama 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.

Incessant and Gruesome Killing of Military Personnel on Peace Mission Across the Country:

The House:

Notes, with deep sadness, the needless and gruesome murder of military personnel who are often on peace missions across the country;

Also notes that this act of attacking and killing military personnel is often carried out through surprise attacks on military formations including check points and even those on routine patrols;

Saddened by the recent brutal attack on military personnel at a checkpoint at Obikabia Junction in Aba, Abia state where five soldiers were horrendously murdered by suspected gunmen;

Also saddened that the perpetrators of the act destroyed and burnt down the military vehicles at the checkpoint while some soldier narrowly escaped with gunshot injuries;

Aware that these military personnel were on a peace mission in their service to their fatherland and ensuring the security of lives and property in that area.

Distressed that this form of attack and killing of military personnel by gunmen in the South East and other parts of Nigeria has a potential of dampening the morale of the armed forces, endangering the lives and property of Nigerians and affecting the war on insecurity which has so far recorded some successes;

Worried that it could also lead to retaliatory attack by the military and cause huge collateral damage on the people.

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the security agencies to conduct a thorough and wholesome investigation into the circumstances that led to this heartless, gruesome and despicable murder while exercising restraint in the application of military force on civilians.
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Defence to interface with the Armed Forces of Nigeria to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Makki Yalleman Abubakar — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with deep sadness, the needless and gruesome murder of military personnel who are often on peace missions across the country;

Also noted that this act of attacking and killing military personnel is often carried out through surprise attacks on military formations including check points and even those on routine patrols;

Saddened by the recent brutal attack on military personnel at a checkpoint at Obikabia Junction in Aba, Abia state where five soldiers were horrendously murdered by suspected gunmen;

Also saddened that the perpetrators of the act destroyed and burnt down the military vehicles at the checkpoint while some soldier narrowly escaped with gunshot injuries;

Aware that these military personnel were on a peace mission in their service to their fatherland and ensuring the security of lives and property in that area.

Distressed that this form of attack and killing of military personnel by gunmen in the South East and other parts of Nigeria has a potential of dampening the morale of the armed forces, endangering the lives and property of Nigerians and affecting the war on insecurity which has so far recorded some successes;

Worried that it could also lead to retaliatory attack by the military and cause huge collateral damage on the people.

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the security agencies to conduct a thorough and wholesome investigation into the circumstances that led to this heartless, gruesome and despicable murder while exercising restraint in the application of military force on civilians.
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Defence to interface with the Armed Forces of Nigeria to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 248/06/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(vi) ***Imperativeness of Fixing a Living Wage for Nigerian Workers to Ameliorate Current Economic Hardship:***

Hon. Ali Isa JC (*Balanga/Billiri 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.

Imperativeness of Fixing a Living Wage for Nigerian Workers to Ameliorate Current Economic Hardship:

The House:

Cognizant of the fact that global economic outlook as well as recent socio-economic policies of government have resulted in inflation, increase in electricity tariff, currency devaluation and other diverse economic consequences especially for Nigerian workers;

Also cognizant that government has been locked in negotiations with labour unions towards the upward review of the Minimum Wage for some time, without any agreement, leading to a recent interruption in the negotiations;

Commends the government for showing absolute commitment by imploring the labour unions to return to the negotiation table;

Aware that the National Assembly repealed and enacted the National Minimum Wage Act, 2019, to fix the minimum wage at ₦30,000 even when the proposal of the Executive Arm of Government had suggested ₦27,000 at the time and 4% wage award by the former President;

Also aware that in line with Section 3 (4) of the Act, the extant minimum wage which commenced on April 18, 2019, has expired after five years on April 18, 2024, thereby calling for a further review of the existing Act;

Notes the implication of payment of ₦35,000 wage award by the Federal Government to public servants as one of the ways of cushioning the effects of current economic hardship, including the May 1 pronouncement of percentage increases in salaries of civil servants has for the time being, increased the total amount received by civil servant to ₦77,000 monthly;

Also notes that the Organized Labour has since demanded for a living wage as against the minimum wage to meet today's economic realities;

Resolves to:

- (i) commend the Organized Labour for their commitment towards negotiating a new minimum wage for Nigerian workers at this very critical period and resolve to call off the strike in the interim;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to redirect the focus of the negotiations from fixing a new minimum wage to fixing a realistic living wage for Nigerians;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to further consider the downward review of electricity tariff, to reduce the suffering of Nigerians (*Hon. Isa Ali JC — Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Cognizant of the fact that global economic outlook as well as recent socio-economic policies of government have resulted in inflation, increase in electricity tariff, currency devaluation and other diverse economic consequences especially for Nigerian workers;

Also cognizant that government has been locked in negotiations with labour unions towards the upward review of the Minimum Wage for some time, without any agreement, leading to a recent interruption in the negotiations;

Commended the government for showing absolute commitment by imploring the labour unions to return to the negotiation table;

Aware that the National Assembly repealed and enacted the National Minimum Wage Act, 2019, to fix the minimum wage at ₦30,000 even when the proposal of the Executive Arm of Government had suggested ₦27,000 at the time and 4% wage award by the former President;

Also aware that in line with Section 3 (4) of the Act, the extant minimum wage which commenced on April 18, 2019, has expired after five years on April 18, 2024, thereby calling for a further review of the existing Act;

Noted the implication of payment of ₦35,000 wage award by the Federal Government to public servants as one of the ways of cushioning the effects of current economic hardship, including the May 1 pronouncement of percentage increases in salaries of civil servants has for the time being, increased the total amount received by civil servant to ₦77,000 monthly;

Also noted that the Organized Labour has since demanded for a living wage as against the minimum wage to meet today's economic realities;

Resolved to:

- (i) commend the Organized Labour for their commitment towards negotiating a new minimum wage for Nigerian workers at this very critical period and resolve to call off the strike in the interim;

- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to redirect the focus of the negotiations from fixing a new minimum wage to fixing a realistic living wage for Nigerians;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to further consider the downward review of electricity tariff, to reduce the suffering of Nigerians (**HR. 249/06/2024**).

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Auctioneers Registration Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1508).
- (2) Maize Export Prohibition Bill, 2024 (HB. 1509).
- (3) National Farm Settlement Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1347).
- (4) Nigeria Police Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1352).
- (5) Nigerian Cashew Utilization Board (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1359).
- (6) Information Technology and Innovation Bill, 2024 (HB. 1360).
- (7) Witness Protection and Management Bill, 2024 (HB. 1463).
- (8) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1464).
- (9) National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1465).
- (10) National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS) (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1469).
- (11) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1471).
- (12) Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1472).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1473).
- (14) Fiscal Responsibility Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1478).
- (15) Chartered Institute of Project Management of Nigeria Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1476).
- (16) Nigerian Independent Warehouse Regulatory Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1480).
- (17) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1481).
- (18) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1482).
- (19) National Youth Service Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1405).

8. Presentation of Report

Report of Conference Committee:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Establish the South East Development Commission; charged with the responsibility among other things to Receive and Manage Fund from Allocation of the Federation

Account for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Houses and other Infrastructural damages suffered by the region as a result of the effect of the Civil War as well as tackle the Ecological problems and any other Related Environmental or Developmental challenges in the South East States and for Related Matters” (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. Consolidation of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed, That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, 2007 to Provide for the Appointment of Another Person Different from the Governor as the Chairman of the Board; Strip the Board of the Powers of Determining and Fixing the Emoluments of its members, and Considering and Approving the Annual Budget of the Bank and for Related Matters (HB.187) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, 2007 to Specifically Mention Federal Capital Territory, Abuja in the Act as the Location of the Head Office of the Central Bank of Nigeria in Order to Avoid Ambiguous and Laborious Interpretations and for Related Matters (HB.189) a Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act to Expand the Qualification of Persons Appointed as Governor and Deputy Governors in order to avoid Conflict of Interest and for Related Matters (HB.217); a Bill for an Act to Amend Section 11 of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, 2007 to Add More Conditions to Disqualification and Cessation of Appointment as Governor, Deputy Governor or Director of the Bank and for Related Matters (HB.841); and a Bill for an Act to Amend Section 20 (3) and Section 20 (5) of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, Cap, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to Allow the National Assembly Have Inputs in Printing and Exchanging New Notes and Coins and for Related Matters. (HB.943) be now consolidated (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Fracis — Warri North/Warri South/Warri South West Federal Constituency*).

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- 10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to Provide for Establishment of Orthopaedic Hospital Billiri, Gombe State under the control of the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board and Affiliated to Federal Teaching Hospital Gombe and For Related Matters (HB.1277) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to Provide for Establishment of Orthopaedic Hospital Billiri, Gombe State under the control of the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board and Affiliated to Federal Teaching Hospital Gombe and For Related Matters (HB.1277) be read a Second Time” (*Hon Ali Isa JC — Balanga/Billiri 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.

- 11. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Railway Corporation Act, Cap. N129, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for the formation of Companies to take over the Functions, Assets, Liabilities and Staff of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, to Develop Competitive Railway Services; to Establish the Nigeria Railway Authority to provide for the Licensing, Technical and Safety Regulation of the Railway Sector, to provide the Framework for Private Sector Participation in the Provision of Rail Services and for Related Matters (HB. 1378) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Railway

Corporation Act, Cap. N129, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for the formation of Companies to take over the Functions, Assets, Liabilities and Staff of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, to Develop Competitive Railway Services; to Establish the Nigeria Railway Authority to provide for the Licensing, Technical and Safety Regulation of the Railway Sector, to provide the Framework for Private Sector Participation in the Provision of Rail Services and for Related Matters (HB. 1378) be read a Second Time” (*Hon Ali Isa JC — Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned for further consultation.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Planning Commission Act, Cap. N66, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; Establish the Budget and National Planning Offices to ensure greater Accountability and Transparency in National Planning and Budget Implementation and for Related Matters (HB.1302) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Planning Commission Act, Cap. N66, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; Establish the Budget and National Planning Offices to ensure greater Accountability and Transparency in National Planning and Budget Implementation and for Related Matters (HB.1302) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro 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 National Planning and Economic Development.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Establish and Empower the Electoral Offences Commission to provide for the Investigation, Prosecution and Adjudication of Electoral Offences and for Related Matters (HB.1219) — Second Reading**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2021 to Establish National Social Register (NSR) as the Primary Identification Tool for the Disbursement of the Vulnerable Group Funds and for Related Matters (HB.803) — Second Reading**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

15. **Need to Halt the Exit of Kimberly-Clark from the Nigerian Market**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that some multinational companies operating in Nigeria have been closing down their businesses and leaving the shores of the country;

Also notes that the corporations have cited unfavourable business environment, energy cost and shortage, insecurity and high cost of raw materials as their reasons for exiting the Nigerian business environment;

Further notes that Kimberly-Clark, which came into the important Nigerian diapers and sanitary pad market about two years ago, investing about One Hundred Million Dollars in form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has also announced a plan to close down its factory and exit;

Cognizant that Kimberly-Clark's products like Huggies and Kotex have contributed positively to the improvement of menstrual and childcare health in Nigeria through the provision of safe sanitary pads and diapers for women and children;

Also cognizant that the company have provided over 10,000 direct and indirect jobs at their factory in Ikorodu, Lagos State and across the country through partnerships and distributorships;

Acknowledges that the Federal Government is currently making concerted efforts to address issues affecting the ease of doing business in Nigeria as well as the security challenges, despite potential genuine reasons for exits;

Worried that the exit of Kimberly-Clark will lead to massive job losses, affect the Nigerian economy and cause difficulty in getting safe and healthy sanitary products at affordable prices in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Management of Kimberly-Clark to rescind its decision to close down their business and exit the Nigerian business environment pending intervention by this House; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Commerce to urgently meet with the Management of Kimberly-Clark and relevant government MDAs to discuss their challenges and reasons for exiting Nigeria so as to proffer lasting solutions to these challenges (*Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

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

“set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to conduct an investigative hearing with critical stakeholders in the manufacturing, production of goods and services in the country with a view to halting the perennial exit of companies in Nigeria and report within four weeks” (*Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka Ayokunle — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that some multinational companies operating in Nigeria have been closing down their businesses and leaving the shores of the country;

Also noted that the corporations have cited unfavourable business environment, energy cost and shortage, insecurity and high cost of raw materials as their reasons for exiting the Nigerian business environment;

Further noted that Kimberly-Clark, which came into the important Nigerian diapers and sanitary pad market about two years ago, investing about One Hundred Million Dollars in form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has also announced a plan to close down its factory and exit;

Cognizant that Kimberly-Clark's products like Huggies and Kotex have contributed positively to the improvement of menstrual and childcare health in Nigeria through the provision of safe sanitary pads and diapers for women and children;

Also cognizant that the company have provided over 10,000 direct and indirect jobs at their factory in Ikorodu, Lagos State and across the country through partnerships and distributorships;

Acknowledged that the Federal Government is currently making concerted efforts to address issues affecting the ease of doing business in Nigeria as well as the security challenges, despite potential genuine reasons for exits;

Worried that the exit of Kimberly-Clark will lead to massive job losses, affect the Nigerian economy and cause difficulty in getting safe and healthy sanitary products at affordable prices in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Management of Kimberly-Clark to rescind its decision to close down their business and exit the Nigerian business environment pending intervention by this House; and
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to conduct an investigative hearing with critical stakeholders in the manufacturing, production of goods and services in the country with a view to halting the perennial exit of companies in Nigeria and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 250/06/2024**).

16. Oil Exploration Activities in Gombe and Bauchi States

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the oil exploration in Kolmani Oil Field between Gombe and Bauchi States commenced in 2016 leading to the inauguration of Kolmani Integrated Development Project by former President Muhammadu Buhari in collaboration with President Ahmed Bola Tinubu in November 2022 after the discovery of about 1 billion barrels of crude oil and 500 billion cubic feet of gas in the licensed area categorized as Oil Prospecting Lease (OPL) 810 and 809;

Also notes that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) attracted over 3 billion dollars investment including Petro-chemical refining site, oil refinery of 120,000 bpd, a gas processing site of about 500 million cubic feet per day, a fertilizer plant and a 300mw power plant, in addition, it is expected to afford the country with the opportunity of re-drawing hydrocarbon map and exit from speculative optimism to crystallized definitive prospects in the oil and gas sector;

Further notes that the news of this discovery elicited excitement across Nigeria emanating from government's charge to NNPCL to re-strategize and expand oil and gas exploration to Anambra, Benue and Bida Basins resulting benefits of additional volume of crude oil, foreign exchange, employment and development;

Worried that after the inauguration of the project, production activities declined under unexplained circumstances, thus creating apprehension and disappointment in the polity, especially in the face of current oil and gas market realities;

Disturbed that the lack of a periodic progress report on such a lucrative project has led to speculation and despair due to the expectations of wealth creation, employment, and significant development;

Cognizant of the need to expedite action on the project considering its benefits to national development;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Downstream, Upstream and Midstream), Gas Resources, and North-East Development Commission to investigate the oil exploration activities of the Kolmani Integrated Development Project and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Inuwa Garba — Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in the Prayer, and *insert* as follows:

“mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Petroleum Resources (Midstream), and Gas Resources, to investigate the oil exploration activities of the Kolmani Integrated Development Project and report within four (4) weeks” (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the oil exploration in Kolmani Oil Field between Gombe and Bauchi States commenced in 2016 leading to the inauguration of Kolmani Integrated Development Project by former President Muhammadu Buhari in collaboration with President Ahmed Bola Tinubu in November 2022 after the discovery of about 1 billion barrels of crude oil and 500 billion cubic feet of gas in the licensed area categorized as Oil Prospecting Lease (OPL) 810 and 809;

Also noted that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) attracted over 3 billion dollars investment including Petro-chemical refining site, oil refinery of 120,000 bpd, a gas processing site of about 500 million cubic feet per day, a fertilizer plant and a 300mw power plant, in addition, it is expected to afford the country with the opportunity of re-drawing hydrocarbon map and exit from speculative optimism to crystallized definitive prospects in the oil and gas sector;

Further noted that the news of this discovery elicited excitement across Nigeria emanating from government's charge to NNPCL to re-strategize and expand oil and gas exploration to Anambra, Benue and Bida Basins resulting benefits of additional volume of crude oil, foreign exchange, employment and development;

Worried that after the inauguration of the project, production activities declined under unexplained circumstances, thus creating apprehension and disappointment in the polity, especially in the face of current oil and gas market realities;

Disturbed that the lack of a periodic progress report on such a lucrative project has led to speculation and despair due to the expectations of wealth creation, employment, and significant development;

Cognizant of the need to expedite action on the project considering its benefits to national development;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Petroleum Resources (Midstream), and Gas Resources, to investigate the oil exploration activities of the Kolmani Integrated Development Project and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 251/06/2024**).

17. Consideration of Reports

(i) Report of Conference Committee:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That this House do consider the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Establish the South East Development Commission; charged with the responsibility among other things to Receive and Manage Fund from Allocation of the Federation Account for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Houses and other Infrastructural damages suffered by the region as a result of the effect of the Civil War as well as tackle the Ecological problems and any other Related

Environmental or Developmental challenges in the South East States and for Related Matters”
(Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor 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)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SOUTH EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION; CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY AMONG OTHER THINGS TO RECEIVE AND MANAGE FUND FROM ALLOCATION OF THE FEDERATION ACCOUNT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF ROADS, HOUSES AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY THE REGION AS A RESULT OF THE EFFECT OF THE CIVIL WAR AS WELL AS TACKLE THE ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND ANY OTHER RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTH EAST STATES AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Clause 1: Establishment of the Governing Board.

The Chairman, Managing Director, three Executive Directors and other Members of the Board shall —

- (a) be appointed by the President, subject to the confirmation of the Senate
(Hon. Kingsley Ogundu Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 1 stands part of the Bill — 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 Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Establish the South East Development Commission; charged with the responsibility among other things to Receive and Manage Fund from Allocation of the Federation Account for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Houses and other Infrastructural damages suffered by the region as a result of the effect of the Civil War as well as tackle the Ecological problems and any other Related Environmental or Developmental challenges in the South East States and for Related Matters and approved the Conference Report.

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

- (ii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science to Conduct Professional Postgraduate Examination for Candidates into Various Specialties in Medical Laboratory Science; and for Related Matters (HB.310) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science to Conduct Professional Postgraduate Examination for Candidates into Various Specialties in Medical Laboratory Science; and for Related Matters (HB.310)” (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL POSTGRADUATE
COLLEGE OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE TO CONDUCT PROFESSIONAL
POSTGRADUATE EXAMINATION FOR CANDIDATES INTO VARIOUS SPECIALTIES
IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.310)**

Clause 1: Establishment of National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science.

- (1) There is established the National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science (in this Bill referred to as "the College").
- (2) The College —
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; and
 - (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) The Headquarters of the College shall be in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja or any other location that is deemed fit (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Responsibility of the College.

The College shall be responsible for the conduct of professional postgraduate examinations for candidates in the various specialties in medical laboratory science and make awards in relation to the postgraduate examinations (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Fellows of the College.

- (1) The College shall consist of all Fellows of the College and its affairs shall be managed by —
 - (a) the Governing Board; and
 - (b) the Senate,
- which shall each exercise such powers as are conferred on it by this Bill.

Schedule.

- (2) The supplementary provisions in the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Governing Board and Senate and the other matters mentioned in the Schedule (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Governing Board of the College.

There is established for the College the Governing Board which shall consist of —

- (a) the President of the College who shall be the Chairman;

- (b) the Board Chairman and Registrar of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria;
- (c) 12 representatives of the Senate;
- (d) the Head of Medical Laboratory Services Department in the Federal Ministry of Health;
- (e) the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of —
 - (i) Health or his representative,
 - (ii) Finance or his representative,
 - (iii) Education or his representative, and
 - (iv) Science and Technology or his representative; and
- (f) two representatives of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Powers of the Governing Board.

The Governing Board shall be the governing body of the College charged with the general control and superintendence of the policies, finances and property of the College, including its public relations (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 6: Composition of the Senate.

The Senate shall consist of —

- (a) the President of the College who shall be Chairman and Must be a fellow of the college;
- (b) the Chairman and Secretary of each Faculty Board appointed in line with section 9 of this Bill; and
- (c) one representative elected by each Faculty (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: Functions of the Senate.

The Senate shall be responsible for the running of the academic affairs of the College including —

- (a) the organisation and control of courses of study at the College and the examinations held in connection with those courses; and
- (b) the award of Fellowships and such other qualifications as may be prescribed in connection with examinations held (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: Appointment of the President of the College, tenure and resignation.

- (1) Subject to paragraph 1 of the Schedule to this Bill, the President shall —
 - (a) be appointed by the Governing Board from among fellows of the College, who must be a fellow of the College; and
 - (b) hold office for three years.
- (2) In the event of the death or incapacity of the President or if, for any reason other than the effluxion of time, the office of President is vacant, the Governing Board shall appoint another person as President for the residue of the term of the President.
- (3) Members of the Governing Board appointed under section 4(b) of this Bill and members of the Senate appointed under section 6 (b) and (c) of this Bill shall hold office for three years.
- (4) Any of the members of the Governing Board or the Senate referred to in subsection (3) of this section may, by notice to the Governing Board or, as the case may be, to the Senate, resign his appointment, and where any such member ceases to hold office before his term of office would have expired by effluxion of time, the body by whom he was appointed or elected shall, as soon as may be practicable, appoint or, as the case may be, elect a person to fill the vacancy for the residue of term (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Faculties.

- (1) There shall be the following Faculties for the College and each Faculty shall comprise all Fellows in the appropriate specialty and the faculties in the College —
 - (a) the Faculty of Clinical Chemistry;
 - (b) the Faculty of Medical Bacteriology and Mycology;
 - (c) the Faculty of Haematology and Blood Transfusion Science;
 - (d) the Faculty of Cellular Pathology and Histoscience;
 - (e) the Faculty of Medical Parasitology and Entomology;
 - (f) the Faculty Diagnostic Molecular Biology;
 - (g) the Faculty of Immunology;
 - (h) the Faculty of Medical Virology;
 - (i) the Faculty of Cytogenetics;
 - (j) the Faculty of Forensic Science;
 - (k) the Faculty of Biomedical Technology and Instrumentation;

- (l) the Faculty of General Medical Laboratory Practice; and
 - (m) the faculty of any other specialty as may be prescribed by the Senate and approved by Governing Board of the College.
- (2) Each Faculty shall elect, from among its members, at least seven but not more than 15 persons to serve as its Faculty Board, two of such persons being elected Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Faculty Board and all members so elected shall hold office for a term of three years.
- (3) Subject to such standing orders that may be made by the Senate for that purpose, each Faculty Board may carry out its duties as it deems fit.
- (4) Each Faculty shall appoint a court of examiners and the court shall be charged with the conduct of examinations under this section and thereafter the Faculty Board shall make its recommendations to the Senate.
- (5) Members of the Faculty Board shall not be entitled to any emolument other than expenses reasonably incurred in travelling on the Board's business, but members of a court of examiners shall be entitled to such remuneration as the Governing Board of the College may authorise (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 10: Eligibility for admission.

Where a candidate offers himself for examination under this Bill, he shall satisfy the appropriate Faculty Board that he is —

- (a) a registered medical laboratory scientist with a current practising license issued by Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria; and
- (b) in possession of and is therein named as the holder of a certificate from an institution recognised by the College showing that he has satisfactorily attended the prescribed course of training in the particular specialty and for prescribed period of the course (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Award of Fellowship.

- (1) Where the College awards its Fellowship under this Bill, the holder shall be entitled to the status as a Fellow in the specialty of which the Fellowship is awarded.
- (2) The College may elect Fellows on strength of relevant publications and prerequisite experience, as occasion may call for same in any faculty.
- (3) No person is eligible for election as a Fellow unless he possesses a degree or other qualification registered with the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria and satisfies such other conditions as may be prescribed by the College (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Award of Honourary fellowship.

The College may, on the recommendation of the Senate, award Honorary Fellowship to persons of distinction in the community who need not be medical laboratory scientists (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 13: Publication of particulars of standards.

The College shall publish in the Federal Government Gazette and elsewhere as it may deem fit —

- (a) particulars of the standards which are to be treated as sufficient for the purposes of examinations conducted by the College under this Bill; and
- (b) the list of institutions recognised for purposes of section 10 of this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Staff of the College.

- (1) The Governing Board may employ such staff of the College as it may consider necessary for the purpose of any of the functions conferred on any of the bodies under this Bill.
- (2) The Governing Board shall, from among the officers appointed under subsection (1) of this section, select a person to act as its Registrar and as Secretary to the Senate.
- (3) To be considered for appointment as the Secretary/Registrar of the College shall equally be a fellow of the College.
- (4) A Secretary/Registrar shall hold the position for a single tenure of 5 years; and no more (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Interpretation.

- (1) In this Bill —

"College" means the Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science established under section 1 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Faculty Board" means any Faculty Board established under section 9(1) of this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Governing Board" means the Governing of the College referred to in section 3 (1) (a) of this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Medical Laboratory Science Council" means the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Medical Laboratory Science Council" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"President" means the President of the College; and (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Senate" means the Senate of the College referred to in section 3 (1) (b) of this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

- (2) Unless the context otherwise requires, expressions used in this Bill have the same meaning as in the Act (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Clause 16: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

SCHEDULE

[Section 3(2)]

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE GOVERNING BOARD AND THE SENATE

Composition of the First Senate and Faculty Boards and Election of the First President of the College

1. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Bill, the persons who immediately before the commencement of this Bill were Fellows of the West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science with cognate experience shall on the commencement of this Bill become members of the corresponding Faculty Boards for purposes of this Bill and shall be deemed to have been appointed pursuant to section 9 of this Bill.
- (2) Appointments of members of Faculty Boards shall be made in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of this Bill.
- (3) Each Faculty shall elect the first representative of the corresponding Faculty on the Senate as specified in section 6 (c) of this Bill.
- (4) The first meeting of the Senate shall be summoned by the President of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria and shall be presided over by him.

- (5) At the first meeting, the Senate shall elect the person to be recommended to the Governing Board for appointment as the first President of the College as well as the first twelve representatives of the Senate on the Governing Board as specified in section 4 (c) of this Bill.
- (6) The first meeting of the Governing Board shall be called by the President of the Association and shall be presided over by him until the President of the College is appointed in the manner prescribed in section 8 (1) of this Bill.

Proceedings of the Governing Board and Senate

- 2. (1) The Governing Board may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or of any committee of the Board.
- (2) The Senate may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or of any Faculty Board or committee of the Senate.
- 3. The quorum of —
 - (a) the Governing Board shall be seven;
 - (b) the Senate shall be 14;
 - (c) any Faculty Board shall be determined by the Senate.
- 4. At any meeting of the Governing Board or the Senate, the President shall preside and if the President is absent the members present shall elect one of them to preside at that meeting.

Committees of the Governing Board and Senate

- 5. (1) The Governing Board may set up one or more committees to carry out, on behalf of the Board, such of its functions as the Board may determine, but a decision of a committee shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.
- (2) The Senate may set up one or more committees to carry out, on behalf of the Senate, such of its functions as the Senate may determine, but a decision of a committee shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Senate.

Miscellaneous

- 6. (1) The fixing of the seal of the College shall be authenticated by the signature of the President or of some other member authorised generally or specially by the Governing Board for that purpose.
- (2) 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 College by any person generally or specially authorised to act for that purpose by the Governing Board.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the College shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.
- 7. The validity of any proceeding of the Governing Board, the Senate Faculty Board or a committee of the Governing Board or Senate shall not be affected by —
 - (a) any vacancy in the membership of the body concerned;

- (b) any defect in the appointment of any member; or
 - (c) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
8. A Member of the Governing Board and any person holding office on a committee of the Board, who has a conflicting interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or a committee shall disclose his interest to the Board and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science to conduct professional postgraduate examinations for candidates into the various specialties in Medical Laboratory Science (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science to Conduct Professional Postgraduate Examination for Candidates into Various Specialties in Medical Laboratory Science; and for Related Matters (HB.310) (*Hon. Ibrahim Ali Abdullahi — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science to Conduct Professional Postgraduate Examination for Candidates into Various Specialties in Medical Laboratory Science; and for Related Matters (HB.310) and approved Clauses 1 - 16, 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.

18. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down items 9 - 15, and items 18 - 20 on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 7 (3)” (Hon. Isah Bello Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

19. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 6 June, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.57 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker