



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 7 February, 2024

1. The House met at 11.14 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 6 February, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

Bereavement:

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Adegboyega Adeyemi Adefarati (*Akoko South East/Akoko South West Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of a former member, Hon. P. S. Orimoloye (*Akoko South East/Akoko South West Federal Constituency, 1999 - 2007*), on Thursday, 14 December, 2023.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

5. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Otabor Christopher, on alleged detention and harassment by National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), was presented and laid by Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere (*Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Thomas Sunday, for reinstatement into the Federal Inland Revenue Service, was presented and laid by Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 5)**(i) *Need for Banks to Implement Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN's) Policies on Holding Excess Long Foreign Exchange and Net Open Position Limits:***

Hon. Benson Babajimi Adegoke (*Ikorodu 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 Banks to Implement Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN'S) Policies on Holding Excess Long Foreign Exchange and Net Open Position Limits

The House:

Notes that effect of the fluctuation of the dollar rate especially in the last two months have been harsh on the Nigerian economy leading to difficulty in accessing needed foreign exchange by legitimate businesses and other users. It has also led to rising cost of living and hardship by millions of Nigerians;

Also notes the liberalization of the dollar i.e leaving the rate for market forces to determine, is, in itself, not a bad policy, but sharp practices by many banks and financial institutions have continued to worsen the forex liquidity problem being experienced in the country and has led to massive distortion in the FX market especially as it concerns the rates;

Observes that most common of these practices is “speculation” — a situation where banks retain much more foreign exchange than they actually should, thereby creating unnecessary scarcity leading to a spike in the rate. Records show that GTB, Zenith Bank, UBA and First Bank have a cumulative excess holding of over five billion dollars as at January 2024. The only fully compliant bank is Stanbic IBTC which has made all FX in its reserve available to their clients;

Also observes that these banks often obtain the foreign exchange either through purchase, borrowing or allocation from CBN at the official rate of ₦461.5 to a dollar for their various customers but will hoard them as part of their bank balances or reserves. They eventually sell at higher rates to make extra profit;

Informed that it is this speculative practice that has prompted the CBN to issue a fresh directive centred around the Net Open Position (NOP) for all commercial banks. Simply put, the NOP measures the difference between a bank's foreign currency assets (what it owns) and foreign currency liabilities (what it owes). Investigations have shown that banks hold far more forex than they require thereby creating artificial scarcity and an increase in the exchange rate;

Cognizant that the new CBN directive will help to limit how much foreign exchange banks can hold and for how long. The aim which is to discourage hoarding of forex thereby making it available for intended users at reasonable rates;

Worried that the measures adopted by CBN in the past and based on previous experiences with CBN policies directives, many banks are in default of its implementation. This explains

why eight banks currently hold a huge NOP of over \$6bn while there is a biting scarcity;

Aware that Section 8 (4) and (5) of the CBN Act requires that the Governor of the CBN is expected to brief the relevant Committees of the National Assembly during the semi-annual hearings as well as provide periodic reports on the performance of the economy to the National Assembly.

Resolves to:

Urge the CBN to compel Banks to comply with its policies on holding excess foreign exchange and Net Open Position Limit (*Hon. Benson Babajimi Adegoke — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that effect of the fluctuation of the dollar rate especially in the last two months have been harsh on the Nigerian economy leading to difficulty in accessing needed foreign exchange by legitimate businesses and other users. It has also led to rising cost of living and hardship by millions of Nigerians;

Also noted the liberalization of the dollar i.e leaving the rate for market forces to determine, is, in itself, not a bad policy, but sharp practices by many banks and financial institutions have continued to worsen the forex liquidity problem being experienced in the country and has led to massive distortion in the FX market especially as it concerns the rates;

Observed that most common of these practices is “speculation” — a situation where banks retain much more foreign exchange than they actually should, thereby creating unnecessary scarcity leading to a spike in the rate. Records show that GTB, Zenith Bank, UBA and First Bank have a cumulative excess holding of over five billion dollars as at January 2024. The only fully compliant bank is Stanbic IBTC which has made all FX in its reserve available to their clients;

Also observed that these banks often obtain the foreign exchange either through purchase, borrowing or allocation from CBN at the official rate of ₦461.5 to a dollar for their various customers but will hoard them as part of their bank balances or reserves. They eventually sell at higher rates to make extra profit;

Informed that it is this speculative practice that has prompted the CBN to issue a fresh directive centred around the Net Open Position (NOP) for all commercial banks. Simply put, the NOP measures the difference between a bank's foreign currency assets (what it owns) and foreign currency liabilities (what it owes). Investigations have shown that banks hold far more forex than they require thereby creating artificial scarcity and an increase in the exchange rate;

Cognizant that the new CBN directive will help to limit how much foreign exchange banks can hold and for how long. The aim which is to discourage hoarding of forex thereby making it available for intended users at reasonable rates;

Worried that the measures adopted by CBN in the past and based on previous experiences with CBN policies directives, many banks are in default of its implementation. This explains why eight banks currently hold a huge NOP of over \$6bn while there is a biting scarcity;

Aware that Section 8 (4) and (5) of the CBN Act requires that the Governor of the CBN is expected to brief the relevant Committees of the National Assembly during the semi-annual hearings as well as provide periodic reports on the performance of the economy to the National Assembly.

Resolved to:

Urge the CBN to compel Banks to comply with its policies on holding excess foreign exchange and Net Open Position Limit (**HR. 07/02/2024**).

(ii) *Need to Review the Planned Promotion Examination by National Examination Council (NECO) for About 1500 Staff to Converge at Minna, Niger State on 14 and 15 February, 2024 in View of the Security Situation and Economic Hardship in the Country:*

Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi (*Afijio/Atiba/Oyo East/Oyo West Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 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 the Planned Promotion Examination by National Examination Council (NECO) for About 1,500 Staff to Converge at Minna, Niger State on 14 and 15 February, 2024 in View of the Security Situation and Economic Hardship in the Country:

The House:

Notes that the National Examination Council (NECO) in a Circular dated 9 January, 2024 is billed to hold the 2024 STAFF PROMOTION EXAMINATION on 14 and 15 February, 2024 at Federal University of Technology (FUT), Minna, Niger State;

Also notes that NECO in another Circular dated 17 January, 2024 published the names of about one thousand, five hundred (1,500) staff to partake in the said 2024 Promotion Examination on 14 and 15 February, 2024 at Federal University of Technology (FUT), Minna, Niger State;

Aware that the examination body had in the past conducted similar promotion examinations for staff at various zonal/regional offices without necessarily making large number of staff from different States of the Federation to travel and converge at one place for the promotion exercise;

Concerned that due to the security situation in the country and the economic hardship biting hard on the citizens including Staff of the National Examination Council (NECO), it is perilous to cause about 1,500 staff to travel from different parts of the country to one place in the name of Promotion Examination;

Believes that the examination body which conducts examinations for candidates all over the country has the capacity to conduct promotion examination for her staff at different States of the Federation.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Basic Examination Bodies and Basic Education and Services to interact with the National Examination Council (NECO) on the planned 2024 Promotion Examination for about 1,500 staff and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi —Afijio/Atiba/Oyo East/Oyo West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the National Examination Council (NECO) in a Circular dated 9 January, 2024 is billed to hold the 2024 STAFF PROMOTION EXAMINATION on 14 and 15 February, 2024 at Federal University of Technology (FUT), Minna, Niger State;

Also noted that NECO in another Circular dated 17 January, 2024 published the names of about one thousand, five hundred (1,500) staff to partake in the said 2024 Promotion Examination on 14 and 15 February, 2024 at Federal University of Technology (FUT), Minna, Niger State;

Aware that the examination body had in the past conducted similar promotion examinations for staff at various zonal/regional offices without necessarily making large number of staff from different States of the Federation to travel and converge at one place for the promotion exercise;

Concerned that due to the security situation in the country and the economic hardship biting hard on the citizens including Staff of the National Examination Council (NECO), it is perilous to cause about 1,500 staff to travel from different parts of the country to one place in the name of Promotion Examination;

Believed that the examination body which conducts examinations for candidates all over the country has the capacity to conduct promotion examination for her staff at different States of the Federation.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Basic Examination Bodies and Basic Education and Services to interact with the National Examination Council (NECO) on the planned 2024 Promotion Examination for about 1,500 staff and report within four (4) weeks (**HR.08/02/2024**).

(iii) ***Relentless Deadly Invasion and Attacks on the Apa and Agatu Local Government Areas, Benue State:***

Hon. Ojema Ojotu (*Apa/Agatu 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.

Relentless Deadly Invasion and Attacks on the Apa and Agatu Local Government Areas, Benue State:

The House:

Notes that a series of deadly attacks commenced in Apa/Agatu, Benue State, on January 18, 2024, resulting in the tragic loss of more than Sixty lives, including three security operatives (2 Soldiers and 1 Nigerian Security and Civil Defence personnel);

Aware that the attacks have devastated over Twenty communities namely Ogwumogbo, Ikpele, Ejima, Ugboju Omega, Odugbeho, Okokolo, Okpokpolo, Edikwu-Icho, Obugodo, Iwili, Umogidi, Idada, Iga, Ugboju and others within the Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency;

Concerned that the attackers, suspected to be armed herders, have caused immense suffering, destruction, and displacement of innocent residents, leaving behind a trail of sorrow, death, and despair;

Disturbed that many persons remain missing, and their whereabouts are yet to be ascertained, compounding the anguish of their families and the communities;

Also concerned that Apa/Agatu people have consistently been victims of similar attacks in the past, and it is imperative for the government to address the root causes of these recurring attacks and invasion;

Informed that there still exists an imminent threat for further attacks;

Worried that the insecurity in Agatu if not nip at the board will escalate to the federal capital territory, Abuja due to its proximity to the Constituency;

Further concerned that the attacks and displacement of my constituents who are predominately farmers and major producers of Yam and rice in Nigeria will certainly bring untold hunger and hardship on the citizen;

Also disturbed that the routes and location of these attackers are well known, hence, the mystery proactive measures are not employed to contain these invaders;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn in the strongest terms the series of deadly attacks in Apa/Agatu, Benue State, and convey its deep condolences to the families of the victims who have lost their lives, including the brave security operatives who sacrificed their lives for the security of our nation;
- (ii) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (iii) urge Federal Ministry of Defence, National Security Adviser, and the relevant security agencies to take immediate and decisive action to restore peace, security, and stability in Apa/Agatu;
- (iv) also urge that a Military Special Force unit be established in strategic locations, with modern technology for security surveillance will boost the confidence of the inhabitants of the affected communities;

- (v) mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to conduct a thorough investigation into the Apa/Agatu attacks and report within four (4) weeks;
- (vi) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected communities, including the provision of relief materials, medical care, and psycho-social support for the survivors and displaced persons (*Hon. Ojema/Ojotu — Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that a series of deadly attacks commenced in Apa/Agatu, Benue State, on January 18, 2024, resulting in the tragic loss of more than Sixty lives, including three security operatives (2 Soldiers and 1 Nigerian Security and Civil Defence personnel);

Aware that the attacks have devastated over Twenty communities namely Ogwumogbo, Ikpele, Ejima, Ugboju Omega, Odugbeho, Okokolo, Okpokpolo, Edikwu-Icho, Obugodo, Iwili, Umogidi, Idada, Iga, Ugboju and others within the Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency;

Concerned that the attackers, suspected to be armed herders, have caused immense suffering, destruction, and displacement of innocent residents, leaving behind a trail of sorrow, death, and despair;

Disturbed that many persons remain missing, and their whereabouts are yet to be ascertained, compounding the anguish of their families and the communities;

Also concerned that Apa/Agatu people have consistently been victims of similar attacks in the past, and it is imperative for the government to address the root causes of these recurring attacks and invasion;

Informed that there still exists an imminent threat for further attacks;

Worried that the insecurity in Agatu if not nip at the board will escalate to the federal capital territory, Abuja due to its proximity to the Constituency;

Further concerned that the attacks and displacement of my constituents who are predominately farmers and major producers of Yam and rice in Nigeria will certainly bring untold hunger and hardship on the citizen;

Also disturbed that the routes and location of these attackers are well known, hence, the mystery proactive measures are not employed to contain these invaders;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn in the strongest terms the series of deadly attacks in Apa/Agatu, Benue State, and convey its deep condolences to the families of the victims who have lost their lives, including the brave security operatives who sacrificed their lives for the security of our nation;
- (ii) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (iii) urge Federal Ministry of Defence, National Security Adviser, and the relevant security agencies to take immediate and decisive action to restore peace, security,

and stability in Apa/Agatu;

- (iv) also urge that a Military Special Force unit be established in strategic locations, with modern technology for security surveillance will boost the confidence of the inhabitants of the affected communities;
- (v) mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to conduct a thorough investigation into the Apa/Agatu attacks and report to the House within four (4) weeks;
- (vi) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected communities, including the provision of relief materials, medical care, and psycho-social support for the survivors and displaced persons (**HR.09/02/2024**).

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (4) to enable it take more than two matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Dominic Ifeanyi Okafor — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iv) ***Deteriorating Insecurity in the Federal Capital Territory:***

Hon. Dominic Ifeanyi Okafor (*Aguata 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.

Deteriorating Insecurity in the Federal Capital Territory:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Capital Territory is and remains the seat of the Federal Government from where National Policies are formulated, headquarters of Federal Government Agencies are domiciled, International edifices are located; majority of foreigners and visitors are resident etc;

Also notes that the government of nearby Nasarawa State has announced plans to install security Cameras across the State to curb the distressing security challenges in the State which ought to be replicated in Abuja being the Centre of the Nation and should be the safest place in the country;

Worried that the level of insecurity ravaging the Centre of Unity in recent times, is, to say the least, very disappointing and unbecoming of a Federal Capital City where there are escalating cases of “one chance”, armed robberies, banditry and rampant kidnappings and killings;

Concerned that the last administration, through the Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy compulsorily registered and linked National Identification Numbers (NIN) with Telephone Numbers of Nigerians and further linked same with various bank accounts with the main purpose of curbing the rising spate of insecurity in the country;

Disturbed that since the Compulsory registration and linking of the National Identification Numbers (NIN) by the Federal Government, there has never been a time it was deployed to tackle or address,

the pressing and scary state of insecurity in the Federal Capital Territory or the Nation at large;

Also worried that since criminal elements in and around the Federal Capital Territory are speedily evolving from the norm to advanced techniques of criminality, the security agencies of government ought to urgently move to digitalize their operations to return the Federal Capital Territory to its safest haven in the Country with the use of Drones, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and other modern sophisticated security gadgets;

Cognizant that restructuring the Nation economically and politically as is obtainable in most Western Economies is the next most appropriate step the Federal Government of Nigeria should go in a bit to addressing the teething economic, political and security concerns of Nigerians;

Resolves to:

- (i) invite the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, the National Security Adviser, and heads of all Security Agencies for an emergency security briefing and strategy;
- (ii) urge the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to install Security Cameras around the FCT and its environs and also install other security gadgets and equip security personnel with modern security equipment to combat the rising and frightening insecurity within the Territory and its environs including the use of drones;
- (iii) also urge Heads of all Security Agencies to urgently collaborate among themselves, train and set up special units within their formations to track and clamp down on the Criminal elements within and around the Territory;
- (iv) further urge the Security Agencies to immediately commence the use of the registered National Identification Numbers (NIN) in their technology to trace and curb insecurity across the Country (*Hon. Dominic Ifeanyi Okafor — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Capital Territory is and remains the seat of the Federal Government from where National Polices are formulated, headquarters of Federal Government Agencies are domiciled, International edifices are located; majority of foreigners and visitors are resident, etc.;

Also noted that the government of nearby Nasarawa State has announced plans to install security Cameras across the State to curb the distressing security challenges in the State which ought to

be replicated in Abuja being the Centre of the Nation and should be the safest place in the country;

Worried that the level of insecurity raving the Centre of Unity in recent times, is, to say the least, very disappointing and unbecoming of a Federal Capital City where there are escalating cases of “one chance”, armed robberies, banditry and rampant kidnappings and killings;

Concerned that the last administration, through the Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy compulsorily registered and linked National Identification Numbers (NIN) with Telephone Numbers of Nigerians and further linked same with various bank accounts with the main purpose of curbing the rising spate of insecurity in the Country;

Disturbed that since the Compulsory registration and linking of the National Identification Numbers (NIN) by the Federal Government, there has never been a time it was deployed to tackle or address,

the pressing and scary state of insecurity in the Federal Capital Territory or the Nation at large;

Also worried that since criminal elements in and around the Federal Capital Territory are speedily evolving from the norm to advanced techniques of criminality, the security agencies of government ought to urgently move to digitalize their operations to return the Federal Capital Territory to its safest haven in the Country with the use of Drones, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and other modern sophisticated security gadgets;

Cognizant that restructuring the Nation economically and politically as is obtainable in most Western Economies is the next most appropriate step the Federal Government of Nigeria should go in a bit to addressing the teething economic, political and security concerns of Nigerians.

Resolved to:

- (i) invite the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, the National Security Adviser, and heads of all Security Agencies for an emergency security briefing and strategy;
- (ii) urge the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to install Security Cameras around the FCT and its environs and also install other security gadgets and equip security personnel with modern security equipment to combat the rising and frightening insecurity within the Territory and its environs including the use of drones;
- (iii) urge Heads of all Security Agencies to urgently collaborate among themselves, train and set up special units within their formations to track and clamp down on the Criminal elements within and around the Territory;
- (iv) urge the Security Agencies to immediately commence the use of the registered National Identification Numbers (NIN) in their technology to trace and curb insecurity across the Country (**HR.10/02/2024**).

7. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ikole-Ekiti, Ekiti State and for Related Matters (HB.1037) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ikole-Ekiti, Ekiti State and for Related Matters (HB.1037) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Akintunde Rotimi — Ikole/Oye 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.

8. **A Bill for an Act to provide for Establishment of Federal Vocational and Skills Acquisition College, Yankaba, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB. 592) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to provide for Establishment of Federal Vocational and Skills Acquisition College, Yankaba, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB. 592) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Hassan Shehu Hussain — Nasarawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act, 2022 and for Related Matters (HB. 37) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act, 2022 and for Related Matters (HB. 37) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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 Electoral Matters.

10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal Institute of Fisheries Research, Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi State and for Related Matters (HB. 285) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. Need to Rehabilitate Anyigba-Ankpa-Olamaboro Portion of the Federal Highway from Itobe to Otukpa in Benue State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the deplorable state of Anyigba-Ankpa-Olamaboro portion of the Federal highway stretching from Itobe, Kogi State to Otukpa, Benue State is a major concern to motorist plying the road, thus causing nightmare to commuters on a daily basis;

Also notes that since the construction of this strategic portion of the road by the then military administration of Gen. Ibrahim Babangida to link the North Central to the South Eastern Part of Nigeria, no rehabilitation has taken place;

Concerned that the deplorable state of the road has caused major economic losses and aggravated insecurity, leading to avoidable deaths, armed robbery, kidnappings, accidents, traffic congestion, thereby exposing the communities along the route to danger;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Works to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Works, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure speedy intervention; and
- (ii) also mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali Halims — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR.11/02/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

12. Allegations of Certificate Racketeering by Nigerian students in collusion with some officials from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in the last two months, the Country has been plagued by a scandal involving Umar Audu, a journalist who went undercover to investigate a booming business, where he obtained a Certificate and transcript from the Ecole Superieure de Gestion et de Technologies, ESGT, Cotonou, Benin Republic Cotonou, and participated in the NYSC scheme within a month;

Also notes that according to the journalist, it was craftily achieved with the active involvement and connivance of government officials in the Federal Ministry of Education, the Nigerian Immigration Service, and the National Youth Service Corps;

Alarmed that the journalist recounted his experience where the agent gave the option of studying either for a year or a month, but he opted for the one-month option, in which he obtained a certificate and transcript without attending lectures at the said University or leaving Nigeria;

Aware that the Federal Ministry of Education authenticates all the Certificates obtained abroad before allowing participation in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC);

Also aware that Officials of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) ensure due process and compliance at all levels with national and international protocols, processes, and rules before, during, and after obtaining any certificates;

Cognizant that there are MDAs charged with the responsibilities of ensuring the smooth and seamless processes of each candidate studying within or outside the country, such as verifying the genuineness of institutions, courses, and authentication of certificates, which are the responsibilities of the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission, while the issuance of international passports vested in the Nigerian Immigration Service; processing of visas; and issuance of note-verbal vested in the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the mandatory one-year national service by the National Youth Service Corps, among others;

Concerned that over the years, foreign institutions have graduated Nigerians in different fields of human endeavours, including medical doctors, pharmacists, laboratory scientists, lecturers, and workers in the public and private sectors rendering myriad services;

Also concerned that the recent development has not only put a question mark on the quality of the certificates and capacity of graduates from these universities but has also tarnished the image of the country's educational system;

Also cognizant that failure to identify and prosecute institutions involved in certificate racketeering, their masterminds, and students could harm Nigeria's socio-political and economic development, encouraging patronage and posing a threat to the country's development;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn in its entirety the act of certificate racketeering by Nigerian students in collusion with some officials from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on University Education to:
 - (a) investigate the matter and identify both foreign and indigenous institutions involved in certificate racketeering in Nigeria,
 - (b) identify officials of Ministries, Departments and Agencies and other persons

involved,

- (c) identify the students that have benefited from such institutions and their campuses in Nigeria in the last ten years,
- (d) recommend the necessary reviews, amendments, or repeals of laws, policies, rules, protocols, or procedures to be adopted for obtaining licenses, admissions, international passports, screening and authentication of results or certificates, and ensuring proper documentation before participating in the National Youth Service Corps, and
- (e) also recommend appropriate sanctions to serve as deterrents for others (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “Education”, *insert* the words “Federal Polytechnics and Higher Education” (*Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — Mallam Madoki/Kaugama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “Higher Education”, *insert* the words “Youth Development, Interior, and Foreign Affairs” (*Hon. Martins Esin — Mbo/Okobo/Oron/Udung Uko/Urue Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in the last two months, the Country has been plagued by a scandal involving Umar Audu, a journalist who went undercover to investigate a booming business, where he obtained a Certificate and transcript from the Ecole Supérieure de Gestion et de Technologies, ESGT, Cotonou, Benin Republic Cotonou, and participated in the NYSC scheme within a month;

Also noted that according to the journalist, it was craftily achieved with the active involvement and connivance of government officials in the Federal Ministry of Education, the Nigerian Immigration Service, and the National Youth Service Corps;

Alarmed that the journalist recounted his experience where the agent gave the option of studying either for a year or a month, but he opted for the one-month option, in which he obtained a certificate and transcript without attending lectures at the said University or leaving Nigeria;

Aware that the Federal Ministry of Education authenticates all the Certificates obtained abroad before allowing participation in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC);

Also aware that Officials of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) ensure due process and compliance at all levels with national and international protocols, processes, and rules before, during, and after obtaining any certificates;

Cognizant that there are MDAs charged with the responsibilities of ensuring the smooth and seamless processes of each candidate studying within or outside the country, such as verifying the genuineness of institutions, courses, and authentication of certificates, which are the responsibilities of the Federal

Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission, while the issuance of international passports vested in the Nigerian Immigration Service; processing of visas; and issuance of note-verbal vested in the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the mandatory one-year national service by the National Youth Service Corps, among others;

Concerned that over the years, foreign institutions have graduated Nigerians in different fields of human endeavours, including medical doctors, pharmacists, laboratory scientists, lecturers, and workers in the public and private sectors rendering myriad services;

Also concerned that the recent development has not only put a question mark on the quality of the certificates and capacity of graduates from these universities but has also tarnished the image of the country's educational system;

Also cognizant that failure to identify and prosecute institutions involved in certificate racketeering, their masterminds, and students could harm Nigeria's socio-political and economic development, encouraging patronage and posing a threat to the country's development;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn in its entirety the act of certificate racketeering by Nigerian students in collusion with some officials from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on University Education, Federal Polytechnics and Higher Education, Youth Development, Interior, and Foreign Affairs to:
 - (a) investigate the matter and identify both foreign and indigenous institutions involved in certificate racketeering in Nigeria,
 - (b) identify officials of Ministries, Departments and Agencies and other persons involved,
 - (c) identify the students that have benefited from such institutions and their campuses in Nigeria in the last ten years,
 - (d) recommend the necessary reviews, amendments, or repeals of laws, policies, rules, protocols, or procedures to be adopted for obtaining licenses, admissions, international passports, screening and authentication of results or certificates, and ensuring proper documentation before participating in the National Youth Service Corps, and
 - (e) also recommend appropriate sanctions to serve as deterrents for others **(HR.12/02/2024)**.

13. Public Private Partnership (PPP) Programmes and Concessions Agreement(s)

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the persistent dwindling revenues accruing to the Federation Account and the enormous deficit in infrastructural development with attendant consequences on budget implementation and the economy due to the nation's dependence;

Also notes the participation of the private sector in the infrastructural development and management of infrastructure around the globe, ranging from roads, railways, airports, housing, power generation, distribution, and marketing, and its enormous contributions to economic development, growth, and prosperity;

Further notes the establishment of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), charged with the responsibility of formulating policies, discussions, agreements, and supervision of all public-private partnerships (PPP) and concession programs, a one-stop shop for concession projects;

Aware that the agency, in collaboration with government departments, has initiated several PPPs and concession programs, some of which are still in process, while others have not yielded positive results on crude oil;

Also aware that many investors participated in or indicated interest in most of the programs, while some secured provisional findings but cannot commence due to insufficient coordination between agencies and ICRC management in actualizing, concluding, and executing agreements;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* committee to investigate and assess the performance of public-private partnership programs and concession agreements, recommend ways to improve the nation's infrastructural development, and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi — Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In the Prayer, *leave out* the words “Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee”, and *insert* the words “Mandate the Committees on Special Duties, and Public Assets” (*Hon. Kuye Ademorin Aliu — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the persistent dwindling revenues accruing to the Federation Account and the enormous deficit in infrastructural development with attendant consequences on budget implementation and the economy due to the nation's dependence;

Also noted the participation of the private sector in the infrastructural development and management of infrastructure around the globe, ranging from roads, railways, airports, housing, power generation, distribution, and marketing, and its enormous contributions to economic development, growth, and prosperity;

Further noted the establishment of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), charged with the responsibility of formulating policies, discussions, agreements, and supervision of all public-private partnerships (PPP) and concession programs, a one-stop shop for concession projects;

Aware that the agency, in collaboration with government departments, has initiated several PPPs and concession programs, some of which are still in process, while others have not yielded positive results on crude oil;

Also aware that many investors participated in or indicated interest in most of the programs, while some secured provisional findings but cannot commence due to insufficient coordination between agencies and ICRC management in actualizing, concluding, and executing agreements;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Public Assets, and Special Duties to investigate and assess the performance of public-private partnership programs and concession agreements, recommend ways to improve the nation's infrastructural development, and report within four (4) weeks **(HR.13/02/2024)**.

14. Need to Construct Bye-Pass Road in Jega, Kebbi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in the 1970s a federal government Trunk 'A' road, connecting Oyo, Niger, Kebbi, and Sokoto States, was constructed in Jega town, linking Nigeria to the Republic of Niger;

Also notes that the town's commercial center in Kebbi State is known for heavy traffic and congested roads, particularly on Friday's market days, which attract heavy trunks and vehicles;

Concerned that the deplorable state of the road has been causing numerous accidents, injuries, and deaths for a long time, with reports of accidents and deaths occurring on a daily basis;

Worried that a lot of primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions located along the road, where students and pupils cross before entering schools, have been injured or killed by moving vehicles along the length of the road;

Observes that to minimize the high rates of accident, local authorities and security agencies deployed personnel to provide security to students and reduce accidents, but the increasing number of students and the insufficient number of security personnel leave room for improvement;

Worried that the dangerous and deplorable state of the road has caused untold fear among parents, leading to school dropouts and absenteeism. The noise from heavy trunks and vehicles also distracts the learning process in schools along the road;

Also worried that the road in Sanagi village, Jega Local Government Area, is a major obstacle for knowledge acquisition and commercial activities;

Cognizant of the need to construct a by-pass road to Kebbi State University of Science and Technology Aleiro to facilitate and ensure smooth learning environment and thriving commercial activities within and outside the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to come up with a workable modality to ensure the timely and speedy construction of Sanagi Village Bye-Pass; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Mansur Musa — Aleiro/Gwandu/Jega Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR.14/02/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

15. Abandoned Shoreline Protection Project in Ode-Ugborado Community, Warri South - West Local Government Area of Delta State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Ode-Ugborodo Community, the ancestral home of the Ugborodo people of the Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State, hosts the NNPC tank farm, Chevron tank farm, Chevron's Escravos Gas to Liquid Plant (EGTL), Escravos Gas Plant, Shell Otumara, and Shara flow station operations, among others, has over the years been plagued by ocean surge and coastal erosion;

Aware that the Federal Government, through the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), awarded contracts for the Ode-Ugborodo shoreline protection project to contractors who have since demobilized with less than 10 percent completion due to inadequate funding by the NDDC;

Concerned that Multinational Oil Companies' oil exploration activities in Ode-Ugborodo area contributes to worsening surges and erosion, in addition to climate change and other natural factors;

Worried that the tidal current of the Atlantic Ocean is remarkably higher during the rainy seasons as it has overflowed its banks, washing away houses, jetties, farmlands, and fishing camps, ultimately threatening the very existence of Ode-Ugborodo Community;

Also worried that apart from the resultant socio-economic paralysis of farming and fishing activities, which is their main source of livelihood, it also poses serious social, security, and health challenges to the people;

Cognizant that if urgent steps are not taken to address the menace of ocean surge and coastal erosion, the oil-rich Ode-Ugborodo Community is at a risk of total submersion as the waves and surges from the Atlantic Ocean become more turbulent;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to make provisions for completion of the Ode-Ugborodo shoreline protection project; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi — Warri North/Warri South/Warri South West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR.15/02/2024).

Motion referred to the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

16. Need to Suspend the Ban Imposed by the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) on the Production of Beverages in Sachets and Small Bottles in Nigeria
Motion made and Question proposed:

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 Sections 88 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), empower the National Assembly to conduct investigations into the activities of any authority executing or administering laws made by the National Assembly including National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC);

Informed that NAFDAC had announced its decision to stop the registration of beverages in small sachets and bottles in January 2024 when the Director-General of the Agency informed the public that the agency will ensure that the validity of renewal of already registered products will not exceed January 2024;

Worried that the decision to ban the registration of beverages in small sachets and bottles runs counter to the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), and runs against the Economic Recovery Plan of the current administration;

Also worried that given the numerous economic challenges confronting poor Nigerians, the ban on the production of the said beverages will work more havoc and cause job losses for over 50% of the workers in Nigeria;

Aware of the need to encourage the sustainability of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which are the greatest employer of labour in Nigeria, employing over 84% of the workforce in Nigeria, NAFDAC's policy to place a ban on the production of beverages in small sachets and bottles will be counterproductive.

Also aware that the decision to place a ban on the production of beverages in small sachets and bottles will encourage unscrupulous elements to go about the production of such drinks and products without recourse to NAFDAC;

Further aware that the ban on the registration of beverages in small sachets and bottles will work more hardship on Nigerians whose livelihoods come from the production and sale of such beverages and will, in the long run, plunge more Nigerians into unemployment and economic hardship and cause them to suffer more in view of the current subsidy removal regime;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to investigate the basis and circumstance surrounding the ban imposed on the production of beverages in sachets and small bottles in Nigeria by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and call for it to be put on hold for being against the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Paschal Agbodike — Ihiala Federal Constituency and one Other*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert the Prayer, immediately after the words “Control (NAFDAC”, *leave out* the words “and call for it to be put on hold for being against the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)” (*Hon. Jaha Ahmadu Usman — Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok 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 Sections 88 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), empower the National Assembly to conduct investigations into the activities of any

authority executing or administering laws made by the National Assembly including National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC);

Informed that NAFDAC had announced its decision to stop the registration of beverages in small sachets and bottles in January 2024 when the Director-General of the Agency informed the public that the agency will ensure that the validity of renewal of already registered products will not exceed January 2024;

Worried that the decision to ban the registration of beverages in small sachets and bottles runs counter to the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), and runs against the Economic Recovery Plan of the current administration;

Also worried that given the numerous economic challenges confronting poor Nigerians, the ban on the production of the said beverages will work more havoc and cause job losses for over 50% of the workers in Nigeria;

Aware of the need to encourage the sustainability of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which are the greatest employer of labour in Nigeria, employing over 84% of the workforce in Nigeria, NAFDAC's policy to place a ban on the production of beverages in small sachets and bottles will be counterproductive.

Also aware that the decision to place a ban on the production of beverages in small sachets and bottles will encourage unscrupulous elements to go about the production of such drinks and products without recourse to NAFDAC;

Further aware that the ban on the registration of beverages in small sachets and bottles will work more hardship on Nigerians whose livelihoods come from the production and sale of such beverages and will, in the long run, plunge more Nigerians into unemployment and economic hardship and cause them to suffer more in view of the current subsidy removal regime;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to investigate the basis and circumstance surrounding the ban imposed on the production of beverages in sachets and small bottles in Nigeria by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and report within four (4) weeks (**HR.16/02/2024**).

17. Need to Investigate the National Identity Cards released from 2012 to date

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Identity Card Management Commission (NIMC) as established by law is charged with the responsibility of collecting, managing, and controlling citizen data for effective economic planning and developmental growth, but the reverse is the case in Nigeria;

Also notes that in 2015, the National Identity Management Commission and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) agreed to immediately implement the Presidential directive on harmonization and integration of Biometric Data capture by government parastatals. The directive aimed to improve biometric data collection and storage across government agencies, collaborating with NIMC and INEC for efficient voter registration and enhanced identity management;

Further notes that in readiness for 2015 general elections, the government made deliberate efforts to capture eligible voters through the National Identity Card, collaborating with INEC to achieve its core mandate for better electoral results and official usage, this strategy was not achieved, causing high expectations among citizens and the government;

Aware that Nigerians have shown resilience in assisting the government in obtaining accurate database information through the National Identity Card Management Commission, despite the government's huge resources for speeding up the process and enhancing electoral transparency and accountability in 2015 and subsequent elections;

Worried that the Commission's headquarters and its states counterparts have been found to be ineffective in delivering the national assignment to the people, particularly in releasing the National identity cards, due to government neglect of operational activities and directives for the benefit of all Nigerians;

Concerned that despite the availability of resources for rapid production and electoral transparency, Nigerians continue to encounter obstacles to update the National Identity Card Management Commission's database information due to lack of attention from the government and ineffective service delivery;

Worried that the Commission received annual budgetary allocations in 2017, 2018 and 2019 to fulfil its mandate, but efforts to produce and release national identity cards have been unsuccessful requiring urgent intervention and attention of the Federal government;

Cognizant that government intervention in restructuring the Commission is necessary for effective service delivery, revitalizing the Commission's operations and re-affirming the goal to provide accurate data and identification documents to the citizens thus restoring the confidence of the Nigerian populace;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Population, and Anti-Corruption to invite the Hon. Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy and the Director-General of National Identity Card Management Commission to ascertain the delay on the release of National Identity Cards from 2012 to date and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Muhammed Dan Abba Shehu — Zaki Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the National Identity Card Management Commission (NIMC) as established by law is charged with the responsibility of collecting, managing, and controlling citizen data for effective economic planning and developmental growth, but the reverse is the case in Nigeria;

Also noted that in 2015, the National Identity Management Commission and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) agreed to immediately implement the Presidential directive on harmonization and integration of Biometric Data capture by government parastatals. The directive aimed to improve biometric data collection and storage across government agencies, collaborating with NIMC and INEC for efficient voter registration and enhanced identity management;

Further noted that in readiness for 2015 general elections, the government made deliberate efforts to capture eligible voters through the National Identity Card, collaborating with INEC to achieve its core mandate for better electoral results and official usage, this strategy was not achieved, causing high expectations among citizens and the government;

Aware that Nigerians have shown resilience in assisting the government in obtaining accurate database information through the National Identity Card Management Commission, despite the government's huge resources for speeding up the process and enhancing electoral transparency and accountability in 2015 and subsequent elections;

Worried that the Commission's headquarters and its states counterparts have been found to be ineffective in delivering the national assignment to the people, particularly in releasing the National identity cards, due to government neglect of operational activities and directives for the benefit of all Nigerians;

Concerned that despite the availability of resources for rapid production and electoral transparency, Nigerians continue to encounter obstacles to update the National Identity Card Management Commission's database information due to lack of attention from the government and ineffective service delivery;

Worried that the Commission received annual budgetary allocations in 2017, 2018 and 2019 to fulfil its mandate, but efforts to produce and release national identity cards have been unsuccessful requiring urgent intervention and attention of the Federal government;

Cognizant that government intervention in restructuring the Commission is necessary for effective service delivery, revitalizing the Commission's operations and re-affirming the goal to provide accurate data and identification documents to the citizens thus restoring the confidence of the Nigerian populace;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Population, and Anti-Corruption to invite the Hon. Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy and the Director-General of National Identity Card Management Commission to ascertain the delay on the release of National Identity Cards from 2012 to date and report within four (4) weeks (**HR.17/02/2024**).

18. Need to Award Contract for the Construction of Akwanga-Jos-Bauchi-Gombe Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Akwanga-Jos-Bauchi-Gombe road, linking the North-East to North-Central region of Nigeria and has remained in a deplorable state over time, causing serious hardship to motorists and commuters that depend on the route for transportation;

Concerned that the Federal government awarded contract for road construction worth 348.59 billion Naira in 2018 for dual carriage, with completion expected in 48 months, however the duration has elapsed;

Observes that the Akwanga-Jos-Bauchi-Gombe road, characterized by high vehicular movements and poor conditions, has deteriorated, leading to daily accidents and increased fatalities, causing inconveniences for commuters;

Recognizes that the completion of the Akwanga-Jos-Bauchi-Gombe road is crucial for facilitating movement of goods and commuter convenience, hence the need to award the contract in 2025;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to immediately award contract for the construction of the Akwanga-Jos-Bauchi-Gombe road and make adequate budgetary provisions for the completion of the road project; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, Appropriations, and Legislative Compliance to compliance (*Hon. Ishaya David Lulu — Bokkos/Mangu Federal Constituency and Eight Others*).

Agreed to.

(HR.18/02/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, Appropriations, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

19. Abuse of Siren on Nigerian Roads

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) is mandated by the Federal Road Safety Commission Act, 2007 to regulate the use of sirens, flashes, and beacon lights on vehicles belonging to the Armed Forces, Nigerian Police, and other paramilitary agencies;

Also notes that Section 5 of the same Act, Regulation 154 of the National Road Traffic Regulations 2012, specifies those entitled to the use of sirens, viz., the president, the vice president, the Senate president, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Federation, the Deputy Senate President, the Deputy Speaker, the State Governors, and the Deputy Governors;

Aware that in the case of emergencies, the Military, Nigerian Police, Paramilitary Agencies, Fire Services and Ambulances are allowed to drive on public roads using sirens;

Concerned that the abuse of the siren often disrupts the free flow of traffic with devastating effects on the economy due to the loss of man hours at gridlocks, while the affected communities often suffer disruption to their businesses and exposure to attacks by hoodlums during long hours of gridlocks, as well as the noise pollution occasioned by the indiscriminate use of the siren;

Worried about the disregard for road traffic rules and regulations and negative impact on the image of the country to prospective investors as Nigeria is portrayed as a lawless country;

Observes that criminals always take undue advantage to unleash fear and terror on society, enhanced by this indiscriminate use of the siren;

Also observes that the abuse has negatively impacted appropriate security assessment as it is difficult to distinguish between the officials entitled to sirens and imposters;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Road Safety Commission and Nigerian Police to enforce the law on the use of sirens on Nigerian roads and clamp down on all those who are not entitled to use sirens for necessary sanctions to serve as deterrents; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Federal Road Safety Commission and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. Jesse Okey- Joe Onuakalusi — Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) is mandated by the Federal Road Safety Commission Act, 2007 to regulate the use of sirens, flashes, and beacon lights on vehicles belonging to the Armed Forces, Nigerian Police, and other paramilitary agencies;

Also noted that Section 5 of the same Act, Regulation 154 of the National Road Traffic Regulations 2012, specifies those entitled to the use of sirens, viz., the president, the vice president, the Senate president, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Federation, the Deputy Senate President, the Deputy Speaker, the State Governors, and the Deputy Governors;

Aware that in the case of emergencies, the Military, Nigerian Police, Paramilitary Agencies, Fire Services and Ambulances are allowed to drive on public roads using sirens;

Concerned that the abuse of the siren often disrupts the free flow of traffic with devastating effects on the economy due to the loss of man hours at gridlocks, while the affected communities often suffer disruption to their businesses and exposure to attacks by hoodlums during long hours of gridlocks, as well as the noise pollution occasioned by the indiscriminate use of the siren;

Worried about the disregard for road traffic rules and regulations and negative impact on the image of the country to prospective investors as Nigeria is portrayed as a lawless country;

Observed that criminals always take undue advantage to unleash fear and terror on society, enhanced by this indiscriminate use of the siren;

Also observed that the abuse has negatively impacted appropriate security assessment as it is difficult to distinguish between the officials entitled to sirens and imposters;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Road Safety Commission and Nigerian Police to enforce the law on the use of sirens on Nigerian roads and clamp down on all those who are not entitled to use sirens for necessary sanctions to serve as deterrents; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Federal Road Safety Commission, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (**HR.19/02/2024**).

20. Consideration of Reports

(i) *Committee on Police Affairs:*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund the total sum of (₦57,014,287,531.92) Fifty-Seven Billion, Fourteen Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-One Naira, Ninety-Two Kobo, out of which the sum of (₦937,993,627.68) Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-Seven Naira, Sixty-Eight Kobo only, is for Personnel Expenditure, while the sum of (₦9,051,490,363.14) Nine Billion, Fifty-One Million, Four Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty-Three Naira, Fourteen Kobo only, is for Overhead Expenditure while the sum of (₦9,989,483,990.82) Nine Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Three Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety Naira, Eighty-Two Kobo only, is for Recurrent Expenditure and the sum of (₦47,024,803,541.18) Forty-Seven billion, Twenty-Four Million, Eight Hundred and Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-One Naira, Eighteen Kobo only, for Capital Expenditure for the year ended 31 December, 2024” (*Committee of Supply*) (*Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — Mallam Madoki/Kaugama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)***Budget Summary:**

Personnel Expenditure —	₦937,993,627.68
Overhead Expenditure —	₦9,051,490,363.14
Recurrent Expenditure —	₦9,989,483,990.82
Capital Expenditure —	₦47,024,803,541.18
Total —	₦57,014,287,531.92

Recommendation:

“Approve the total sum of Fifty-Seven Billion, Fourteen Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-One Naira, Ninety-Two Kobo (₦57,014,287,531.92) only”
(Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — Mallam Madoki/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

*Agreed to.**Chairman to report proceedings.***(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund the total sum of (₦57,014,287,531.92) Fifty-Seven Billion, Fourteen Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-One Naira, Ninety-Two Kobo, out of which the sum of (₦937,993,627.68) Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-Seven Naira, Sixty-Eight Kobo only, is for Personnel Expenditure, while the sum of (₦9,051,490,363.14) Nine Billion, Fifty-One Million, Four Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty-Three Naira, Fourteen Kobo only, is for Overhead Expenditure while the sum of (₦9,989,483,990.82) Nine Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Three Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety Naira, Eighty-Two Kobo only, is for Recurrent Expenditure and the sum of (₦47,024,803,541.18) Forty-Seven billion, Twenty-Four Million, Eight Hundred and Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-One Naira, Eighteen Kobo only, for Capital Expenditure for the year ended 31 December, 2024 and approved the only Recommendation of the Report.

*Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Supply — Agreed to.***(ii) Committee on Customs and Excise:**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Customs and Excise on the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigeria Customs and Excise, the total sum of (₦706,434,216,877.66) Seven Hundred and Six Billion, Four Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-Seven Naira, Sixty-Six Kobo only, out of which the sum of (₦225,993,659,688.50) Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Three Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty-Eight Naira, Fifty Kobo only, is for Personnel Cost, while the sum of (₦111,765,093,000.00) One Hundred and Eleven Billion, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Five Million, Ninety-Three Thousand Naira only, is for Overhead Costs, while the sum of (₦368,675,464,189.16) Three Hundred and Sixty-Eight Billion, Six Hundred and Seventy-Five Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty-Nine Naira, Sixteen Kobo only, for Capital Expenditure for the year ending 31 December, 2024” *(Hon. Leke Joseph Abejide — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopa Muro Federal Constituency).*

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Budget Summary:

Personnel costs	—	₦225,993,659,688.50
Overhead costs	—	₦111,765,093,000.00
Capital costs	—	₦368,675,464,189.16
Total	—	₦706,434,216,877.66

Recommendation:

“Approve the total sum of Seven Hundred and Six billion, Four Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-Seven Naira, Sixty-Six Kobo, (₦706,434,216,877.66) only” (*Hon. Leke Joseph Abejide — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopa Muro Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report of the Committee on Customs and Excise on the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigeria Customs and Excise, the total sum of (₦706,434,216,877.66) Seven Hundred and Six Billion, Four Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-Seven Naira, Sixty-Six Kobo only, out of which the sum of (₦225,993,659,688.50) Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Three Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty-Eight Naira, Fifty Kobo only, is for Personnel Cost, while the sum of (₦111,765,093,000.00) One Hundred and Eleven Billion, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Five Million, Ninety-Three Thousand Naira only, is for Overhead Costs, while the sum of (₦368,675,464,189.16) Three Hundred and Sixty-Eight Billion, Six Hundred and Seventy-Five Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty-Nine Naira, Sixteen Kobo only, for Capital Expenditure for the year ending 31 December, 2024 and approved the only Recommendation of the Report.

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

21. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 8 February, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Omozuavbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.23 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker