



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 8 May, 2024

1. The House met at 10.58 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, 7 May, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Committee on Constitution Review**

Additional Membership:

Mr Speaker announced additional membership of the Committee as follows:

- (i) Hon. Zainab Gimba
- (ii) Hon. Miriam Odinaka Onuoha
- (iii) Hon. Regina Akume
- (iv) Hon. Ogbara Adetola Kafilat
- (v) All Zonal Caucus Leaders
- (vi) A representative of Persons Living with Disabilities.

5. **Petitions**

- (i) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Isaac Okpanachi on the non-compliance with court order (Suit No: NKN/ABJ/143/2012) by the Nigerian Navy and the Central Bank of Nigeria,
 - (b) Sodeinde Sonaike & Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Oko and 3 others communities of Delta State, on alleged unlawful nomination and appointment of persons into the OML 26, Host Community Development Trust Fund by Nigeria National Petroleum Upstream Regulations without the host communities' participation;

- (ii) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*):
- (a) Agbor Agwu Esq (Legal Practitioners), on a call for action on prolonged power outage in Obubra Local Government Area, Cross River State, by Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company and Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission,
 - (b) Nigeria Electric Power Authority (NEPA) Workers Welfare Representatives Council on the dismissal of 271 NEPA Employees,
 - (c) U. C. Oparange & Co., on behalf of Sam Okoye, on alleged abduction of his son, Ifeanyi Stanley Okoye and Galimaendofa Lord by Rev. Fr Emmanuel Edeh, founder of Madona University and 3 others,
 - (d) M. Amaechi & Co., on behalf of Daniel Osasere and 1 other, on alleged misconduct and abuse of power by Patrick Aisoweren, a former Member of the House of Representatives,
 - (e) Fidelis Omhonia, on the alleged shooting to death of his son by officers of the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA),
 - (f) Oguesego Madukaife Human Rights Foundation on alleged conspiracy, misrepresentation of Nigerian Army and false claims by My Napoleon Egbuonu and 2 others in connivance with officers of Idemili Divisional Police Station at Ogidi,
 - (g) D. O. Arikun & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Francis Mgbeh, on alleged intimidation and threat to life by the Nigeria Police Force,
 - (h) Peter Joseph, on alleged arrest, detention, arraignment by the State Criminal and Investigative Department, Port Harcourt, River State,
 - (i) HRM Eze CDA CAC Eronini, on behalf of Advanced Coating Technology Nigeria Limited, on non-payment for services rendered on Pipe Line Interconnection and Construction by Precision Construction and Engineering Project,
 - (j) Christopher Onyekwere, on behalf of Sej Duc Engineering Nigeria Limited, on the refusal to refund of monies spent on OML 100 by Abdul Samaad Rabiun and Cavendish,
 - (k) Ifeanyi Ezenwabachili of Piram International Industries Limited on request for completion from payment of non-duty related payments and payment without seen/exam to any terminal on behalf of Nigerian Custom Service,
 - (l) Alfa Onam, on his alleged unlawful retirement from the service of the Nigerian Custom Service,
 - (m) O. S. Oyobo & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on alleged smuggling of Chinese Immigrants for illegal mining, forceful exploitation of natural resources and illicit trading by Abiodun Global Service Limited in Ankpa Local Government Area, Kogi State,
 - (n) Etaba & Uzoagu - Okeke (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Kehinde Temileyin, on alleged assault by officers of the FCT Department of Road Traffic Services,
 - (o) Mohammed Usman and 1 other, on behalf of the Joint Union comprising of

Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN) and Nigerian Civil Service Union under the Public Complaint Commission, on their alleged victimization by the Chief Commissioner and the Secretary of the Commission;

- (iii) A petition Abubakar J. Abdullahi of Academic Staff Union of Polytechnic (ASUP), Kaduna Polytechnic Chapter, on the alleged illegal sales of Kaduna Polytechnic Staff Quarters by the Management of the Institution, was presented and laid by Hon. Adamu Tanko (*Suleja/Gurara/Tafa Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Paul Onwuanibe of the Landmark Group calling on the stoppage of the ongoing construction of Lagos - Calabar Coastal Highway in order to formulate alternative means of undertaking the development, was presented and laid by Hon. Thaddeus Attah (*Eti-Osa Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from Crystalpath Attorneys (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Abbas Abdullahi Marafa and 4 others, on the alleged refusal to replace their damaged properties by Danmarna Petroleum Limited, Lugbe, Abuja, was presented and laid by Hon. Mansur Manu Soro (*Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).
- (vi) A petition from Iniebehe Udoekong, on his suspension from the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Clement Jimbo (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*);
- (vii) A petition from Jacob Zarma of Kaduna Polytechnic, on alleged trespass and sale of landed property by Abdulrahman Tanko and 2 others, was presented and laid by Hon. Blessing Chigeru Amadi (*Port Harcourt II Federal Constituency*);
- (viii) A petition from Ogah Ogbenyi of Legal Aid Council, on behalf of Aishatu Ibrahim and 1 other, on the alleged disappearance of Bello Ayuba an employee of Build Point Engineering Services Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. James Shuaibu Barka (*Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*);
- (ix) A petition from O. J. Onoja, SAN & Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Ana Rock Global Services Limited, on alleged violation of Court Order (FCT/HC/CV/297/2021) by the Inspector-General of Police and 3 others, was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali (*Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 5)

Hon. Kama Nkemkamma. (*Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to a report by Channels Television in which the Chief Executive Officer of a crypto currency platform, Binance, accused some Federal Government Officials of demanding \$150 million in crypto currency to settle the criminal charge against the firm. He noted that the House of Representatives has never interfaced with the Binance Chief Executive Officer, and considered it a breach of his privilege and that of the House. He therefore urged the House to invite the Chief Executive Officer to appear before it for further explanation.

Ordered: *The media should ensure that the general public be guided accordingly.*

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

- (i) ***Restoration of National Grid to North East Sub-region and Upgrade of Transmission Conductors for Effective and Efficient Electricity Supply:***

Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha (*Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza 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.

Restoration of National Grid to North East Sub-region and Upgrade of Transmission Conductors for Effective and Efficient Electricity Supply:

The House:

Notes that the North East sub-region of Nigeria has been experiencing prolonged electricity supply challenges due to attacks by non state actors and poor state of the transmission infrastructure, resulting in frequent power outages and disruptions to economic activities and daily life of the residents;

Also notes that the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) plays a crucial role in the transmission of electricity across the country and is responsible for ensuring a stable and reliable national grid system;

Concerned that the current state of the transmission conductors in the North East sub-region is inadequate and outdated, leading to transmission losses and inefficiencies in the supply of electricity to the region;

Also concerned that the lack of a reliable electricity supply hinders economic development, industrial growth, and social well-being in the Northeast sub-region, impacting the lives of millions of residents.

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to prioritize the restoration of the national grid to the Northeast sub-region to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to the residents;
- (ii) also call on the TCN to expedite the upgrading of transmission conductors in the Northeast sub-region to improve the efficiency and reliability of the electricity supply in the area;
- (iii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to allocate adequate resources and support to the TCN to facilitate the restoration of the national grid and the upgrading of transmission conductors in the Northeast sub-region;
- (iv) also urge the relevant regulatory bodies to monitor and oversee the implementation of these actions to ensure compliance and timely completion of the projects;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Power, North East Development Commission, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaka — Chibok/Damboa/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the North East sub-region of Nigeria has been experiencing prolonged electricity supply challenges due to attacks by non state actors and poor state of the transmission infrastructure, resulting in frequent power outages and disruptions to economic activities and daily life of the residents;

Also noted that the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) plays a crucial role in the transmission of electricity across the country and is responsible for ensuring a stable and reliable national grid system;

Concerned that the current state of the transmission conductors in the North East sub-region is inadequate and outdated, leading to transmission losses and inefficiencies in the supply of electricity to the region;

Also concerned that the lack of a reliable electricity supply hinders economic development, industrial growth, and social well-being in the Northeast sub-region, impacting the lives of millions of residents.

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to prioritize the restoration of the national grid to the Northeast sub-region to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to the residents;
 - (ii) also call on the TCN to expedite the upgrading of transmission conductors in the Northeast sub-region to improve the efficiency and reliability of the electricity supply in the area;
 - (iii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to allocate adequate resources and support to the TCN to facilitate the restoration of the national grid and the upgrading of transmission conductors in the Northeast sub-region;
 - (iv) also urge the relevant regulatory bodies to monitor and oversee the implementation of these actions to ensure compliance and timely completion of the projects;
 - (v) mandate the Committees on Power, North East Development Commission, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 172/05/2024**).
- (ii) ***Provision of Comprehensive Medical, Relief Materials and Financial Support for the Victims of Gas Explosion at Alaba Lane, Alayabiagba, Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government Area, Lagos State:***
Hon. Kalejaiye Adeboye Paul (*Ajeromi/Ifelodun 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.

Provision of Comprehensive Medical, Relief Materials and Financial Support for the

Victims of Gas Explosion at Alaba Lane, Alayabiagba, Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government Area, Lagos State:

The House:

Notes that a tragic gas explosion occurred at Alaba Lane, Alayabiagba Community, in the Ajegunle area of Lagos State, resulting in over ten death and several injuries including a pregnant woman;

Also notes that the incident occurred due to a suspected gas leakage that ignited and led to a fire outbreak, damaging properties including commercial tricycles, lock-up stores, and a portion of a bungalow building;

Aware that the swift response and intervention of the Federal Fire Service and Lagos State Fire Service were crucial in containing the fire and providing initial care to the victims before they were moved to Ajeromi General Hospital and, later to Gbagada General Hospital due to the intensity of the burns;

Concerned that the survivors who suffered varying degrees of burn injuries are currently receiving treatment at the Gbagada Burn and Trauma Centre and Ajeromi General Hospital;

Worried that as at May 1, 2024, most of the survivors are still in critical conditions;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to conduct a thorough investigation into the Alaba Lane gas explosion to determine the root cause and prevent future occurrences;
- (ii) also urge NEMA to support the effort of the Lagos State Government by providing adequate medical care and support to the victims;
- (iii) further urge NEMA to provide financial support to the families of the victims as well as rehabilitate damaged properties;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kalejaiye Adebayo Paul — Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that a tragic gas explosion occurred at Alaba Lane, Alayabiagba Community, in the Ajegunle area of Lagos State, resulting in over ten death and several injuries including a pregnant woman;

Also noted that the incident occurred due to a suspected gas leakage that ignited and led to a fire outbreak, damaging properties including commercial tricycles, lock-up stores, and a portion of a bungalow building;

Aware that the swift response and intervention of the Federal Fire Service and Lagos State Fire Service were crucial in containing the fire and providing initial care to the victims before

they were moved to Ajeromi General Hospital and, later to Gbagada General Hospital due to the intensity of the burns;

Concerned that the survivors who suffered varying degrees of burn injuries are currently receiving treatment at the Gbagada Burn and Trauma Centre and Ajeromi General Hospital;

Worried that as at May 1, 2024, most of the survivors are still in critical conditions;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to conduct a thorough investigation into the Alaba Lane gas explosion to determine the root cause and prevent future occurrences;
- (ii) also urge NEMA to support the effort of the Lagos State Government by providing adequate medical care and support to the victims;
- (iii) further urge NEMA to provide financial support to the families of the victims as well as rehabilitate damaged properties;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 173/05/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(iii) *Security Breach Leading to the Escape of Binance Executive, Nadeem Anjarwalla from the Custody of the National Security Adviser:*

Hon. Dominic Okafor Ifeanyi (*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.

Security Breach Leading to the Escape of Binance Executive, Nadeem Anjarwalla from the Custody of the National Security Adviser:

The House:

Notes that on 26 February, 2024, the Federal Republic of Nigeria arrested and detained Nadeem Anjarwalla, an executive of a Crypto Currency Exchange Company, Binance, for alleged complicity of the Company in money laundering and terrorism financing;

Also notes that on April 4, 2024, the two Binance executives were billed to appear in court to answer to the alleged crimes against Nigeria before the security breach occurred which led to the escape of one of the Company's executives in a very scandalous dimension;

Concerned that persons suspected to have committed such atrocious crimes against the State of Nigeria with already over-burdened Security challenges were kept in a guest house in Abuja instead of lawful custody of the Department of State Service or any other approved custodial facility;

Worried that the escape of the Binance Executive from the office of the National Security Adviser using a "Smuggled Passport" is, to say the least, most disappointing, embarrassing and disturbing as it portrays the porosity of the security architecture of the country to the world;

Disturbed that weeks after the unfortunate escape and inability of the Security forces to re-arrest Nadeem Anjarwalla, the Kenyan Police arrested him on 22 April, 2024, as the International Criminal Police Organization moves to extradite him to Nigeria soon to face the allegation leveled against the Company;

Resolves to:

- (i) invite the National Security Adviser to explain the circumstances that led to such despicable escape of a high profile suspect from his office;
- (ii) call on the National Security Adviser to hand over the investigation of its personnel involved in the escape of Nadeem Anjarwalla to the Department of State Services as it cannot be a judge in its own case;
- (iii) also call on the Director General of the Department of State Services to take over the investigation and prosecution of personnel found complicit in the escape of Nadeem Anjarwalla;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Financial Crimes, National Security and Intelligence and Interior to ensure compliance and report in two (2) weeks (*Hon. Dominic Ifeanyi Okafor — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out Prayers (i) and (ii) (Hon. Yusuf Shehu Galambi — Gwaram/Jigawa Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (i) In Prayer (iv) immediately after the words "National Security", *insert* the words "Police Affairs" (*Hon. Yusuf Shehu Galambi — Gwaram/Jigawa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Republic of Nigeria arrested and detained Nadeem Anjarwalla, an executive of a crypto currency exchange Company, Binance on February 26, 2024 for alleged complicity of the Company in money laundering and terrorism financing;

Also noted that the two Binance executives were billed to appear in court on April 4, 2024 to answer to the alleged crimes against Nigeria before the security breach occurred which led to the escape of one of the Company's executives in a very scandalous dimension;

Concerned that persons suspected to have committed such atrocious crimes against the State of Nigeria with already over-burdened Security challenges were kept in a guest house in Abuja instead of lawful custody of the Department of State Service or any other approved custodial facility;

Worried that the escape of the Binance executive from the office the National Security Adviser using a "Smuggled Passport" is, to say the least, most disappointing, embarrassing and disturbing as it portrays the porosity of the security architecture of the country to the world;

Disturbed that weeks after the unfortunate escape and inability of the Security forces to re-arrest Nadeem Anjarwalla, the Kenyan Police arrested him on 22 April, 2024, as the International Criminal Police Organization moves to extradite him to Nigeria soon to face the allegation leveled against the Company;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Director General of the Department of State Services to take over the investigation and prosecution of personnel found complicit in the escape of Nadeem Anjarwalla;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Financial Crimes, National Security and Intelligence, Police Affairs, and Interior to ensure compliance and report in two (2) weeks (**HR. 174/05/2024**).

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. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (iv) ***Police/Security Presence in Schools Across the Nation to Address the Worsening Security Situation in the Country:***

Hon. Billy Osawaru (*Orhinmwon/Uhumnwode 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.

Police/Security Presence in Schools Across the Nation to Address the Worsening Security Situation in the Country:

The House:

Notes the worrying rate of kidnappings and wanton destruction of lives and properties across the schools in the country since 2014 to the extent that children/students are no longer safe even in their schools especially in places like Borno, Nasarawa, Niger, Zamfara, Katsina and Kaduna States. Most recently on Thursday, 7 March, 2024, about 287 schoolchildren were kidnapped from a government-owned school in Kaduna State's Kuriga town. Before then, on Friday, 22 of September 2023, about 24 students of the Federal University of Gusau in Zamfara State were kidnapped by bandits;

Also notes that in Nigeria, police men are not guarding most of our schools despite the level of attacks frequently experienced by the schools and the ones in existence are not sufficient

in manpower and equipment, hence the level of losses incurred any time such attacks occurred. If no drastic measure is taken to curb the escalating insecurity situation in the country and in the schools, the entire schools may end up being shut down due to the activities of these miscreants and hoodlums;

Aware that Government owes the people the responsibility of providing for their welfare and security, so it is incumbent on the government to fulfil its obligation to the people in this regard;

Also aware that due to the directive of Mr. President and the relentless efforts of the security agencies, the schoolchildren who were victims of March 2024 attack have long being united with their families, which is very commendable. But trauma and shocking experiences they must have been through will forever be in their minds and may likely give them phobia of going to school again;

Worried that based on Save the Children report, more than 1,680 schoolchildren have been kidnapped in Nigeria since the 2014 abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok in Borno State and counting. The fear of attacks has stopped many children from ever attending school again. In addition to the abductions, over 180 schoolchildren were killed and nearly 90 injured in 70 attacks between April 2014 and December 2022, with an estimated 60 school staff kidnapped and 14 killed, 25 school buildings were reportedly destroyed during that period. The majority of these attacks took place in North-West Nigeria (49 attacks), followed by North-Central Nigeria (11 attacks), etc.;

Concerned that in Nigeria, the number of out-of-school children, as per the report from UNICEF, was put at 10.5 million - before the effects of the conflict, humanitarian crisis and COVID-19 pandemic were felt." One wonders at present what the figure will be due to the effect of these numerous attacks in different schools across the nation;

Disturbed that the embarrassing situation has continued to adversely affect the educational sector and the Nigerian economy in several ways, calling for all-inclusive approach to arrest the situation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the schools to engage the services of Private Security outfits to complement the efforts of the security agencies in securing their premisses;
- (ii) call on Nigerian clerics, Traditional Rulers, National Orientation Agency and Civil Society Organisations to contribute towards value re-orientation and social re-awakening especially to the out of school children still living in fear;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, Air Force, Police Affairs and Defence to interface with all security Chiefs to identify how best to secure our schools and proffer immediate lasting solutions to the security challenges in the education sector, especially around the troubled states of Borno, Nasarawa, Niger, Zamfara, Kastina and Kaduna (*Hon. Billy F. Osawaru — Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

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

"Mandate the Committee on Defence, Army, Air Force, and Police Affairs to interface with all Security Chiefs to identify how best to secure our schools and proffer immediate lasting solutions to the security challenges in the education sector, especially around the troubled States of Borno,

Nasarawa, Niger, Zamfara, Katsina and Kaduna” (Hon. Makki Abubakar Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the worrying rate of kidnappings and wanton destruction of lives and properties across the schools in the country since 2014 to the extent that children/students are no longer safe even in their schools especially in places like Borno, Nasarawa, Niger, Zamfara, Katsina and Kaduna States. Most recently on Thursday, 7 March, 2024, about 287 schoolchildren were kidnapped from a government-owned school in Kaduna State's Kuriga town. Before then, on Friday, 22 of September 2023, about 24 students of the Federal University of Gusau in Zamfara State were kidnapped by bandits;

Also noted that in Nigeria, police men are not guarding most of our schools despite the level of attacks frequently experienced by the schools and the ones in existence are not sufficient in manpower and equipment, hence the level of losses incurred any time such attacks occurred. If no drastic measure is taken to curb the escalating insecurity situation in the country and in the schools, the entire schools may end up being shut down due to the activities of these miscreants and hoodlums;

Aware that Government owes the people the responsibility of providing for their welfare and security, so it is incumbent on the government to fulfil its obligation to the people in this regard;

Also aware that due to the directive of Mr. President and the relentless efforts of the security agencies, the schoolchildren who were victims of March 2024 attack have long being united with their families, which is very commendable. But trauma and shocking experiences they must have been through will forever be in their minds and may likely give them phobia of going to school again;

Worried that based on Save the Children report, more than 1,680 schoolchildren have been kidnapped in Nigeria since the 2014 abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok in Borno State and counting. The fear of attacks has stopped many children from ever attending school again. In addition to the abductions, over 180 schoolchildren were killed and nearly 90 injured in 70 attacks between April 2014 and December 2022, with an estimated 60 school staff kidnapped and 14 killed, 25 school buildings were reportedly destroyed during that period. The majority of these attacks took place in North-West Nigeria (49 attacks), followed by North-Central Nigeria (11 attacks), etc.;

Concerned that in Nigeria, the number of out-of-school children, as per the report from UNICEF, was put at 10.5 million - before the effects of the conflict, humanitarian crisis and COVID-19 pandemic were felt." One wonders at present what the figure will be due to the effect of these numerous attacks in different schools across the nation;

Disturbed that the embarrassing situation has continued to adversely affect the educational sector and the Nigerian economy in several ways, calling for all-inclusive approach to arrest the situation;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the schools to engage the services of Private Security outfits to complement the efforts of the security agencies in securing their premisses;
 - (ii) call on Nigerian clerics, Traditional Rulers, National Orientation Agency and Civil Society Organisations to contribute towards value re-orientation and social re-awakening especially to the out of school children still living in fear;
 - (iii) mandate the Committee on Defence, Army, Air Force, and Police Affairs to interface with all Security Chiefs to identify how best to secure our schools and proffer immediate lasting solutions to the security challenges in the education sector, especially around the troubled States of Borno, Nasarawa, Niger, Zamfara, Katsina and Kaduna (**HR. 175/05/2024**).
- (v) ***Need to Stop the Gruesome Killings and Wanton Destruction of Properties of the Law-abiding Citizens of Agojeju-Odo Community in Omala LGA, Kogi State:***
Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali (*Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Stop the Gruesome Killings and Wanton Destruction of Properties of the Law-abiding Citizens of Agojeju-Odo Community in Omala LGA, Kogi State:

The House:

Notes that on Thursday, April 4, 2024. Agojeju Odo Village in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State was invaded by suspected Herders numbering about 200 who set the entire Community in flames, killing the inhabitants indiscriminately especially women and even children were not spared, leading to a serious humanitarian crisis in Omala Local Government Area;

Informed by eye witness account from a survivor, that this heinous crime against humanity which is pure act of terrorism took place in broad day light between the hours of 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm leaving over 40 people dead, many inhabitants maimed others injured. While those that escaped by the grace of God are left homeless and displaced taking temporal refuge in Abejukolo town and other neighboring Local Government Areas, like Ankpa, Bassa and Dekina, with the attendant effect of hunger and lack of access to medicare;

Also notes that Agojeju-Odo Community is purely an agrarian settlement with very fertile soil and vegetation with thriving agricultural activities before this sad incident occurred. Now with the farming season setting in, it becomes highly imperative that the Federal Government urgently intervenes to restore peace and order and as well save the livelihood of the people who are predominantly farmers. Moreso, that the people are in palpable fear that the attack will be relaunched as the attackers boasted to wipe out the inhabitants of the Community and claim their land as currently being experienced in Bagana Village in same Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silent in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to send a detachment of Mobile Policemen and the Military to Agojeju-Odo Community in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State while the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) and the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to ensure peace to enable the fleeing inhabitants return home;
- (iii) also urge the Chief of Defence Staff to establish a Functional, Operational Military Base in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State for rapid response to the incessant herdsmen attack in the Local Government Area and its environs in Ankpa Federal Constituency;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant agencies to address the humanitarian crisis occasioned by the attack;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Thursday, April 4, 2024. Agojeju Odo Village in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State was invaded by suspected Herders numbering about 200 who set the entire Community in flames, killing the inhabitants indiscriminately especially women and even children were not spared, leading to a serious humanitarian crisis in Omala Local Government Area;

Informed by eye witness account from a survivor, that this heinous crime against humanity which is pure act of terrorism took place in broad day light between the hours of 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm leaving over 40 people dead, many inhabitants maimed others injured. While those that escaped by the grace of God are left homeless and displaced taking temporal refuge in Abejukolo town and other neighboring Local Government Areas, like Ankpa, Bassa and Dekina, with the attendant effect of hunger and lack of access to medicare;

Also noted that Agojeju-Odo Community is purely an agrarian settlement with very fertile soil and vegetation with thriving agricultural activities before this sad incident occurred. Now with the farming season setting in, it becomes highly imperative that the Federal Government urgently intervenes to restore peace and order and as well save the livelihood of the people who are predominantly farmers. Moreso, that the people are in palpable fear that the attack will be relaunched as the attackers boasted to wipe out the inhabitants of the Community and claim their land as currently being experienced in Bagana Village in same Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silent in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to send a detachment of Mobile Policemen and the Military to Agojeju-Odo Community in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State while the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) and the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to ensure peace to enable the fleeing inhabitants return home;

- (iii) also urge the Chief of Defence Staff to establish a Functional, Operational Military Base in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State for rapid response to the incessant herdsmen attack in the Local Government Area and its environs in Ankpa Federal Constituency;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant agencies to address the humanitarian crisis occasioned by the attack;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 176/05/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(vi) ***Need to Unravel the Cause of the Death of Miguel Ovoke, a 4 Year Old Pupil:***
Hon. Kelechi Nwogu (*Etche/Omuma 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 Unravel the Cause of the Death of Miguel Ovoke, a 4 Year Old Pupil:

The House:

Notes that 4-year-old Miguel Ovoke was a pupil of Brickhall School, Abuja;

Also notes that Miguel Ovoke was dropped in the school by his mother on 24 April, 2024;

Disturbed that the young innocent child was reported dead under suspicious circumstances which the school was unable to explain;

Worried that the parents of the deceased alleged a cover-up by the school management in collaboration with the Nigerian Police;

Concerned that the traumatic effects of the sudden death of young Miguel Ovoke is taking a toll on the family and other classmates;

Also concerned about the negative image that the act will leave on our country in the comity of nations if such is not addressed;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) set up a Special *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the circumstances leading to the untimely death of the young Miguel Ovoke and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Kelechi Nwogu —Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that 4-year-old Miguel Ovoke was a pupil of Brickhall School, Abuja;

Also noted that Miguel Ovoke was dropped in the school by his mother on 24 April, 2024;

Disturbed that the young innocent child was reported dead under suspicious circumstances which the school was unable to explain;

Worried that the parents of the deceased alleged a cover-up by the school management in collaboration with the Nigerian Police;

Concerned that the traumatic effects of the sudden death of young Miguel Ovoke is taking a toll on the family and other classmates;

Also concerned about the negative image that the act will leave on our country in the comity of nations if such is not addressed;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) set up a Special *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the circumstances leading to the untimely death of the young Miguel Ovoke and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 177/05/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

Ad-hoc Committee on Need to Unravel the Cause of the Death of Miguel Ovoke, a 4 Year Old Pupil:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Adamu Tanko | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Kama Nkemkanma | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Akani Clement Ademola | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Aguye Tanko | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Jafaru Yakubu | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Kelechi Nwogu | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Umar Yusuf Yabo | — | <i>Member</i> |

The Ad-hoc Committee is to report within one (1) week.

- (vii) ***Windstorm Disaster in Kaltungo and Shongom Local Government Areas, Gombe State:***
Hon. Obed Paul Shehu (*Kaltungo/Shongom 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.

Windstorm Disaster in Kaltungo and Shongom Local Government Areas of Gombe State:

The House:

Notes the devastation caused by windstorm and torrential rainfall in communities of Kaltungo and Shongom Local Government Areas in Gombe State on 2 April, 2024;

Also notes that properties worth Millions of Naira were destroyed which caused dislocation of people from their homes and disrupted the use of affected Public Buildings such as Hospitals, LG Secretariat, Worship Centers, JAMB Centers etc, making them unfit for public use;

Concerned that the situation may cause adverse economic setback to the people in the area;

Convinced that the Executive Arm of Government needs to urgently direct all relevant agencies to respond to the plight of the victims of the windstorm disaster in Kaltungo and Shongom Local Government Areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) commiserate with the Gombe State Government and the people of the affected areas over the disaster;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims;
- (iii) also urge the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to also provide relief materials to the families of the victims; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Management, North East Development Commission, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Obed Paul Shehu —Kaltungo/Shongom Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the devastation caused by windstorm and torrential rainfall in communities of Kaltungo and Shongom Local Government Areas in Gombe State on 2 April, 2024;

Also noted that properties worth Millions of Naira were destroyed which caused dislocation of people from their homes and disrupted the use of affected Public Buildings such as Hospitals, LG Secretariat, Worship Centers, JAMB Centers etc, making them unfit for public use;

Concerned that the situation may cause adverse economic setback to the people in the area;

Convinced that the Executive Arm of Government needs to urgently direct all relevant agencies to respond to the plight of the victims of the windstorm disaster in Kaltungo and Shongom Local Government Areas;

Resolved to:

- (i) commiserate with the Gombe State Government and the people of the affected areas over the disaster;
 - (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims;
 - (iii) also urge the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to also provide relief materials to the families of the victims; and
 - (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Management, North East Development Commission, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 178/05/2024**).
- (viii) ***Devastating Windstorm that occurred in Awe, Doma, and Keana Local Government Areas of Nasarawa State:***
Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba (*Awe/Doma/Keana 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.

Devastating Windstorm that occurred in Awe, Doma, and Keana Local Government Areas of Nasarawa State:

The House:

Notes the recent devastating windstorm that ravaged several communities including Alosi and Keana in Keana LGA, Agbashi and Iponu in Doma LGA, and some communities in Awe Local Government Areas of Nasarawa State;

Also notes that the natural disaster which struck on Tuesday, 4 April, 2024 accompanied by a heavy rainfall has left a trail of destruction in the communities resulting to loss of life of one individual and injury to several others;

Concerned that the raging storm caused severe damage to buildings, including residential houses, schools, shops, worship centers and destroyed electricity poles prompting a black out in the communities;

Worried that the gusty wind which destroyed farmlands and uprooted several economic trees, pulled off roof tops, reduced several houses to rubble and destroyed electric poles has rendered several residents homeless, affected businesses, and farmlands thereby aggravating the already challenging conditions faced by the affected communities;

Resolves to;

- (i) observe a minute in silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials, and immediate assistance to the communities and individuals affected;

- (iii) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent devastating windstorm that ravaged several communities including Alosi and Keana in Keana LGA, Agbashi and Iponu in Doma LGA, and some communities in Awe Local Government Areas of Nasarawa State;

Also noted that the natural disaster which struck on Tuesday, 4 April, 2024 accompanied by a heavy rainfall has left a trail of destruction in the communities resulting to loss of life of one individual and injury to several others;

Concerned that the raging storm caused severe damage to buildings, including residential houses, schools, shops, worship centers and destroyed electricity poles prompting a black out in the communities;

Worried that the gusty wind which destroyed farmlands and uprooted several economic trees, pulled off roof tops, reduced several houses to rubble and destroyed electric poles has rendered several residents homeless, affected businesses, and farmlands thereby aggravating the already challenging conditions faced by the affected communities;

Resolved to;

- (i) observe a minute in silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials, and immediate assistance to the communities and individuals affected;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 179/05/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

- (ix) ***Establishment of a Special Joint Security Task Force to Complement the Existing Security Operations against Insecurity in Shiroro, Rafi and Munya Local Government Areas of Niger State:***

Hon. Ismail Musa Modibo (*Shiroro/Rafi/Munya 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.

Establishment of a Special Joint Security Task Force to Complement the Existing Security Operations against Insecurity in Shiroro, Rafi and Munya Local Government Areas of Niger State:

The House:

Notes that Shiroro/Rafi/Munya is the most affected federal constituency facing insecurity challenges in Niger State;

Also notes with grave concern that recently, there is an increasing rate of banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling in Shiroro, Rafi, and Munya Local Government Areas of Niger State, despite significant efforts by the military personnel and other security agencies;

Concerned that within a few months, there were a series of bandit attacks in these local government areas. Between 23 to 25 February, 2024, the bandits attacked the villages of Allawa, Pulwaya, Unguwan Usman, and Bassa in the Shiroro local government. A few weeks later, on March 20 - 21, 2024, the bandits attacked Pangu Gari, and Madaka communities in Rafi local government respectively. The attack led to death of a Village Head of Madaka and 35 others within the two communities. In the more recent attacks, on 19 April 2024, a military Captain, five other soldiers, and some vigilantes were ambushed and killed, on their way to respond to a distress call around the Bassa and Allawa Communities;

Also concerned that on 22 April, 2024, two soldiers were reportedly killed, and several others sustained serious injuries as their Armored Protective Carrier (APC) vehicle stepped on an explosive device along Allawa village. The unfortunate incident led the Nigerian Army to withdraw its personnel from Allawa Military Base. A grave decision that caused more tension and panic among the inhabitants in the area, thereby forcing them out of their ancestral homes to take refuge in areas where they felt more secure;

Disturbed that the bandits launch attacks with audacity, covering over a hundred kilometers on their motorcycles, along Birnin Gwari, through the Kamuku forest in Kaduna State, and extending to Maganda junction, from where they usually spread to either part of Munya and Shiroro local governments through Hana Wanka, Kukoki, Malawe, up to Alawa, Erena, Bassa, or transverse the remote villages of Madaka, Makurdi, Wayam, Sufana, Pangu Gari, down to busy highway of Tegini to Zungeru-Minna road, usually unabated;

Worried that the bandits' activities are causing great dangers to the lives and livelihoods of the people, by crippling the economic activities, such as education, jobs, and food security, as many schools are closed, and farming communities are being displaced;

Believes that the formation of a Special Joint Security Task Force, supported by air surveillance and ground troops can effectively contain the banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling activities in the affected Local Governments in the State;

Also believes that establishing a strategic Joint Security Task Force Base at Maganda Junction would have the great potential to end these security threats, not only in Shiroro, Rafi Munya Federal Constituency, but in Niger State at large;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Security Chiefs as a matter of urgency to launch Special Joint Taskforce Operations, in Shiroro, Rafi, and Munya Local governments, to comprehensively address the security threats;

- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide necessary relief materials to the Victims of the attacks and Communities displaced by bandits;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Defence, National Security and Intelligence, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ismail Musa Modibo — Shiroro/Rafi/Munya Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Shiroro/Rafi/Munya is the most affected federal constituency facing insecurity challenges in Niger State;

Also noted with grave concern that recently, there is an increasing rate of banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling in Shiroro, Rafi, and Munya Local Government Areas of Niger State, despite significant efforts by the military personnel and other security agencies;

Concerned that within a few months, there were a series of bandit attacks in these local government areas. Between 23 to 25 February, 2024, the bandits attacked the villages of Allawa, Pulwaya, Unguwan Usman, and Bassa in the Shiroro local government. A few weeks later, on March 20 - 21, 2024, the bandits attacked Pangu Gari, and Madaka communities in Rafi local government respectively. The attack led to death of a Village Head of Madaka and 35 others within the two communities. In the more recent attacks, on 19 April 2024, a military Captain, five other soldiers, and some vigilantes were ambushed and killed, on their way to respond to a distress call around the Bassa and Allawa Communities;

Also concerned that on 22 April, 2024, two soldiers were reportedly killed, and several others sustained serious injuries as their Armored Protective Carrier (APC) vehicle stepped on an explosive device along Allawa village. The unfortunate incident led the Nigerian Army to withdraw its personnel from Allawa Military Base. A grave decision that caused more tension and panic among the inhabitants in the area, thereby forcing them out of their ancestral homes to take refuge in areas where they felt more secure;

Disturbed that the bandits launch attacks with audacity, covering over a hundred kilometers on their motorcycles, along Birnin Gwari, through the Kamuku forest in Kaduna State, and extending to Maganda junction, from where they usually spread to either part of Munya and Shiroro local governments through Hana Wanka, Kukoki, Malawe, up to Alawa, Erena, Bassa, or transverse the remote villages of Madaka, Makurdi, Wayam, Sufana, Pangu Gari, down to busy highway of Tegna to Zungeru-Minna road, usually unabated;

Worried that the bandits' activities are causing great dangers to the lives and livelihoods of the people, by crippling the economic activities, such as education, jobs, and food security, as many schools are closed, and farming communities are being displaced;

Believed that the formation of a Special Joint Security Task Force, supported by air surveillance and ground troops can effectively contain the banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling activities in the affected Local Governments in the State;

Also believed that establishing a strategic Joint Security Task Force Base at Maganda Junction would have the great potential to end these security threats, not only in Shiroro, Rafi Munya Federal Constituency, but in Niger State at large;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Security Chiefs as a matter of urgency to launch Special Joint Taskforce Operations, in Shiroro, Rafi, and Munya Local governments, to comprehensively address the security threats;
 - (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide necessary relief materials to the Victims of the attacks and Communities displaced by bandits;
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Defence, National Security and Intelligence, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 180/05/2024**).
- (x) ***Prolonged Non-Payment of Stipends to Overseas Students under the Federal Government Bilateral Educational Agreement (BEA) Scholarship:***
Hon. Muhammad Muktar (*Kazaure/Roni/Gwiwa/Yankwashi 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.

Prolonged Non-Payment of Stipends to Overseas Students under the Federal Government Bilateral Educational Agreement (BEA) Scholarship:

The House:

Aware that the Executive Arm of Government has entered into a Bilateral Educational Agreement Scholarship (BEA) with overseas countries, notably Russia, Morocco, Algeria, China, and Hungary. Under the agreement, the countries were committed to catering for tuition fees, while Nigeria would be responsible for accommodation and sustainability allowances amounting to \$500 per student per month;

Notes with grave concern that despite the Federal Government's obligation to provide stipends for basic living expenses, overseas students under the BEA Scholarship have been subjected to prolonged delays in receiving their stipends. This failure has left them in dire financial straits, unable to afford even the most basic necessities;

Also notes that the Union of Nigerian Bilateral Education Agreement Scholars (UNBEAS) has tirelessly voiced their concerns through various channels, yet their pleas have fallen on deaf ears, and no concrete action has been taken to date;

Further notes that distressing reports have emerged, revealing the appalling conditions faced by these students as disturbing videos shows scenes of students being forcibly evicted from their accommodation, with their belongings heartlessly thrown onto the streets. Such inhumane treatment worsens the already dangerous situation faced by our scholars abroad;

Concerned that such neglect may cause our vulnerable students to stray into unwanted vices such as stealing, drug abuse, suicide, and abandonment of education, as they struggle to cope with the financial hardships imposed upon them;

Still notes that, over the past six to eight months, scholars enrolled in various institutions abroad, spanning countries such as Russia, Morocco, Algeria, China, and Hungary, have endured immense financial strain due to the delay in receiving their stipends;

Again notes that recent payments received by students, spanning from March to August, have been impaired by significant shortfalls, with some students experiencing delays of nearly two and a half months' worth of payments. Furthermore, scholars in China have been deprived of any stipend payments since their arrival in April and May 2023;

Disturbed that the students through their union voiced out that the economic reality of our nation makes it difficult for their families back home to support them. Furthermore, prohibitions on employment in host BEA countries limit students' ability to seek alternative means of income;

Also disturbed that such neglect not only undermines the confidence of our scholars in their nation but also tarnishes our reputation on the international stage as the nation grapples with economic hardships. It is also imperative to prioritize the welfare of these students, who represent the future of our country;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to expedite the disbursement of stipends owed to overseas students under the Federal Government Bilateral Educational Agreement (BEA) Scholarship without further delay to allow them focus wholeheartedly on their studies;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on University Education to investigate the root causes of the delays in stipend payments and the mistreatment of scholars abroad, with a view to implementing lasting solutions to such allowances (*Hon. Muhammad Muktar — Kazaure/Roni/Gwiwa/Yankwashi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the Executive Arm of Government has entered into a Bilateral Educational Agreement Scholarship (BEA) with overseas countries, notably Russia, Morocco, Algeria, China, and Hungary. Under the agreement, the countries were committed to catering for tuition fees, while Nigeria would be responsible for accommodation and sustainability allowances amounting to \$500 per student per month;

Noted with grave concern that despite the Federal Government's obligation to provide stipends for basic living expenses, overseas students under the BEA Scholarship have been subjected to prolonged delays in receiving their stipends. This failure has left them in dire financial straits, unable to afford even the most basic necessities;

Also noted that the Union of Nigerian Bilateral Education Agreement Scholars (UNBEAS) has tirelessly voiced their concerns through various channels, yet their pleas have fallen on deaf ears, and no concrete action has been taken to date;

Further noted that distressing reports have emerged, revealing the appalling conditions faced by these students as disturbing videos shows scenes of students being forcibly evicted from their accommodation, with their belongings heartlessly thrown onto the streets. Such inhumane treatment worsens the already dangerous situation faced by our scholars abroad;

Concerned that such neglect may cause our vulnerable students to stray into unwanted vices such as stealing, drug abuse, suicide, and abandonment of education, as they struggle to cope with the financial hardships imposed upon them;

Still noted that, over the past six to eight months, scholars enrolled in various institutions abroad, spanning countries such as Russia, Morocco, Algeria, China, and Hungary, have endured immense financial strain due to the delay in receiving their stipends;

Again noted that recent payments received by students, spanning from March to August, have been impaired by significant shortfalls, with some students experiencing delays of nearly two and a half months' worth of payments. Furthermore, scholars in China have been deprived of any stipend payments since their arrival in April and May 2023;

Disturbed that the students through their union voiced out that the economic reality of our nation makes it difficult for their families back home to support them. Furthermore, prohibitions on employment in host BEA countries limit students' ability to seek alternative means of income;

Also disturbed that such neglect not only undermines the confidence of our scholars in their nation but also tarnishes our reputation on the international stage as the nation grapples with economic hardships. It is also imperative to prioritize the welfare of these students, who represent the future of our country;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to expedite the disbursement of stipends owed to overseas students under the Federal Government Bilateral Educational Agreement (BEA) Scholarship without further delay to allow them focus wholeheartedly on their studies;
 - (ii) mandate the Committees on University Education to investigate the root causes of the delays in stipend payments and the mistreatment of scholars abroad, with a view to implementing lasting solutions to such allowances (**HR. 181/05/2024**).
- (xi) ***Need to Suspend the Implementation of National Cyber Security Levy:***
Hon. Mansur Manu Soro (*Darazo/Ganjuwa 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 Suspend the Implementation of National Cyber Security Levy:

The House:

Notes that the Central Bank of Nigeria has on Monday, 6 May, 2024, directed commercial and merchant banks, payment service providers, mobile money operators and other financial institutions to begin the deduction of 0.05% levy on all electronic transactions by customers and remit same to office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA);

Aware of assurances made by the Executive Arm of Government that its plans to increase revenue would not include the introduction of new taxes or increasing existing tax rates;

Concerned that the national cyber security levy would have the maximum negative impacts on financial transactions, financial inclusion, and the cashless policy of the Central Bank;

Worried that the removal of petrol and electricity subsidies and the Naira devaluation has caused massive impoverishment of Nigerians and destruction of livelihoods;

Disturbed that the implementation of the national cyber security levy is coming at a time of widespread sufferings caused by skyrocketing increases in general living costs and food prices;

Also disturbed that the fund management model may be defective and inefficient and subject to misappropriation and leakages as the office of the National Security Adviser is a political office with no mandate and requisite to manage revenues;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Central Bank of Nigeria to reverse the issuance of its circular and discontinue the process of implementing the national cyber security levy with immediate effect;
- (ii) also call on the Minister of Finance to ensure that there is no new tax introduction or increase in existing rates under the economic situation in the land has significantly improved;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Rules and Business to present before the Committee of the Whole the next legislative week, the copy of the Cyber Crimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024, for reconsideration by the House (*Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned for further consultation.

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) National Council on Climate Change Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1176).
- (2) North East Development University, Kirfi, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1179).
- (3) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1188).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1189).
- (5) National Obstetrics Fistula Centre, Babbar-Ruga, Katsina State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1190).
- (6) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1191).
- (7) Federal College of Agriculture and Vocational Studies, Ogbia, Bayelsa State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1192).
- (8) Nigerian Ports Authority Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1196).

- (9) National Universities Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1202).
- (10) Nigerian Postal Service Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1204).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1205).
- (12) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1206).
- (13) Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1207).
- (14) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1212).
- (15) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1214).
- (16) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1215).
- (17) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024(HB.1217).
- (18) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1223).
- (19) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024(HB.1227).
- (20) Central Bank of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1338).
- (21) Court of Appeal Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1339).
- (22) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024(HB.1341).
- (23) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1342).
- (24) Sheriffs and Civil Process Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1343).
- (25) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1345).
- (26) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1346).
- (27) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1349).
- (28) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1371).
- (29) National Safety Regulation Board (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1377).
- (30) Nigerian Railway Corporation Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1378).
- (31) Nigerian Solid Minerals Communities Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1379).

9. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 9 May, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.09 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker