



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 8 November, 2023

1. The House met at 11.19 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 November, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
Sectoral Debate of the House:

Hon. Colleagues.

In line with the Standing Orders, and Legislative Agenda, the 10th House of Representatives would commence sectoral engagements with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

*In order to address the multiple economic challenges facing Constituencies across Nigeria, the first thematic area for the sectoral debates will be the **Economy**.*

Accordingly, the First Debate has been scheduled to hold on Thursday, 9 November, 2023. Those to appear before the House are:

1. *The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria and His Deputies; and*
2. *The Chairman. Federal Inland Revenue Service.*

Other critical actors will be subsequently invited to appear at Plenary, and will be concluded with the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy.

Consequently, the Sitting for Thursday and other days scheduled for debates will commence at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

All Members are encouraged to be present and engage fully.

Thank you.

Signed

Abbas Tujadeen
Speaker

5. Petition

A petition from Verr Oghenekume Ovuzorie, on alleged defamation of character by Aruya Davidson of Legal Aid Council, was presented and laid by Hon. Terseer Ugbor (*Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) Abduction of a Corps Member from Akwa Ibom State, Miss Imaobong Samuel Alongside 11 Other Corps Members in Kogi State:

Hon. Unyime Idem (*Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency and Nine Others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Abduction of a Corps Member from Akwa Ibom State, Miss Imaobong Samuel Alongside 11 Other Corps Members in Kogi State:

The House:

Notes that on November 1, 2023, an Akwa Ibom Transport Company (AKTC) vehicle conveying passengers from Uyo to Kogi State was hijacked by gunmen and a corps member from Akwa Ibom State — Miss Imaobong Samuel who was on her way to her place of primary assignment (PPA), was abducted alongside 11 other Corps members;

Also notes that the abductors demanded an initial fifteen million Naira (₦15,000,000) as ransom which was currently negotiated to two million Naira (₦2,000,000) placed as a prerequisite for each release;

Aware that a similar case which occurred on Thursday, August 17, 2023, where eight corps members from Akwa Ibom State were abducted by gunmen in Zamfara State, on their way to their place of primary assignment (PPA) with a demand of two hundred million Naira is still pending conclusive investigation;

Also aware that such tragic occurrence seems to be on the increase lately with resultant fear amongst prospective corps members, thereby posing a threat to effectiveness of the National Youth Service Corps in the nation;

Worried that the frequent and continuous occurrence of this menace targeted at innocent corps members poses significant security concerns, as well as threatens the mandate of the

NYSC as public trust and confidence in the government's ability to protect its citizens is eroded;

Recognizes the urgent need to address these situations at hand, in order to institute a plan of action to forestall any more occurrences, restore confidence in national security and preserve national unity;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to take over the investigation of the abduction of the corps member, and deploy all necessary resources including personnel and intelligence capabilities, to ensure the swift and safe rescue of Miss Imaobong Samuel, alongside the 11 other passengers;.
- (ii) also urge the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) to collaborate with other relevant security agencies, including the Department of State Services (DSS) and Nigerian Army, to ensure a coordinated and effective response to this rising security threat targeted at Corp members and innocent citizens;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance and report within one (1) week (*Hon. Unyime Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency and Nine Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on November 1, 2023, an Akwa Ibom Transport Company (AKTC) vehicle conveying passengers from Uyo to Kogi State was hijacked by gunmen and a corps member from Akwa Ibom State — Miss Imaobong Samuel who was on her way to her place of primary assignment (PPA), was abducted alongside 11 other Corps members;

Also noted that the abductors demanded an initial fifteen million Naira (₦15,000,000) as ransom which was currently negotiated to two million Naira (₦2,000,000) placed as a prerequisite for each release;

Aware that a similar case which occurred on Thursday, August 17, 2023, where eight corps members from Akwa Ibom State were abducted by gunmen in Zamfara State, on their way to their place of primary assignment (PPA) with a demand of two hundred million Naira is still pending conclusive investigation;

Also aware that such tragic occurrence seems to be on the increase lately with resultant fear amongst prospective corps members, thereby posing a threat to effectiveness of the National Youth Service Corps in the nation;

Worried that the frequent and continuous occurrence of this menace targeted at innocent corps members poses significant security concerns, as well as threatens the mandate of the NYSC as public trust and confidence in the government's ability to protect its citizens is eroded;

Recognized the urgent need to address these situations at hand, in order to institute a plan of action to forestall any more occurrences, restore confidence in national security and preserve national unity;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to take over the investigation of the abduction of the corps member, and deploy all necessary resources including personnel and intelligence capabilities, to ensure the swift and safe rescue of Miss Imaobong Samuel, alongside the 11 other passengers;.
 - (ii) also urge the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) to collaborate with other relevant security agencies, including the Department of State Services (DSS) and Nigerian Army, to ensure a coordinated and effective response to this rising security threat targeted at Corp members and innocent citizens;
 - (iii) mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance and report within one (1) week (**HR. 340/11/2023**).
- (ii) ***Tragic Inferno at Ladipo Plank Market in Iganmu Road, Amukoko of Ajeromi-Ifelodun Local Government Area of Lagos:***
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 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Tragic Inferno at Ladipo Plank Market in Iganmu Road, Amukoko of Ajeromi-Ifelodun Local Government Area of Lagos:

The House:

Notes that a tragic inferno, on Wednesday, 1 November, 2023, resulting in the destruction of 351 shops belonging to over 1,000 traders; the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service acted promptly to contain the fire, and subsequent efforts were made to clear the debris;

Also notes that the incident left the affected traders and artisans in a state of distress and despair;

Aware that the Ladipo Plank Market, also accommodated other artisans such as tailors, fashion designers, and printers;

Also aware that the market played a crucial role in providing livelihoods to entrepreneurs from diverse community;

Worried that the fire also affected two adjacent residential buildings, exacerbating the already dire situation;

Concerned that the Ladipo Plank Market fire incident is a reminder of the level of vulnerability of communities to unforeseen disasters, by taking swift and comprehensive action, we can demonstrate our commitment to the welfare and prosperity of our citizens;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected traders and provide succour for the affected traders and residents;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to provide adequate financial support to the affected markets and traders;
- (iii) further urge the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kalejaiye Adeboye Paul — Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that a tragic inferno, on Wednesday, 1 November, 2023, resulting in the destruction of 351 shops belonging to over 1,000 traders; the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service acted promptly to contain the fire, and subsequent efforts were made to clear the debris;

Also noted that the incident left the affected traders and artisans in a state of distress and despair;

Aware that the Ladipo Plank Market, also accommodated other artisans such as tailors, fashion designers, and printers;

Also aware that the market played a crucial role in providing livelihoods to entrepreneurs from diverse community;

Worried that the fire also affected two adjacent residential buildings, exacerbating the already dire situation;

Concerned that the Ladipo Plank Market fire incident is a reminder of the level of vulnerability of communities to unforeseen disasters, by taking swift and comprehensive action, we can demonstrate our commitment to the welfare and prosperity of our citizens;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected traders and provide succour for the affected traders and residents;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to provide adequate financial support to the affected markets and traders;
- (iii) further urge the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 341/11/2023**).

7. Presentation of Report

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Compliance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government and Corporate Bodies:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the *Ad-hoc* Committee to Investigate the Compliance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government and

Corporate Bodies with the Industrial Training Funds Act and Other Reasons Affecting the Scheme from 2010 - 2022” (Hon. Emmanuel Ukpong-Udo — Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. A Bill for an Act to Regulate Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 242) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Regulate Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 242) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Olumide Osoba — Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Corporate Social Responsibility.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend Nursing and Midwifery (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. N143, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review the Composition of the Council, Qualification and Tenure of Office of the Members of the Council, Review Penalty Provision and the Composition of the Tribunal, including Bachelor of Nursing Science, Community Nursing and Community Midwives in the Registrable Qualifications of the Council, give the Council timeline within which to complete indexing of Students, Register Prospective Members and issue License and Communicate the decision of the Council to Institutions that apply for Approval and for Related Matters (HB.605) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend Nursing and Midwifery (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. N143, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review the Composition of the Council, Qualification and Tenure of Office of the Members of the Council, Review Penalty Provision and the Composition of the Tribunal, including Bachelor of Nursing Science, Community Nursing and Community Midwives in the Registrable Qualifications of the Council, give the Council timeline within which to complete indexing of Students, Register Prospective Members and issue License and Communicate the decision of the Council to Institutions that apply for Approval and for Related Matters (HB.605) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Abdulmalik Zubairu — Bungudu/Maru Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Healthcare Services.

10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal College of Science and Health Technology, Mbu Isiuzo, Enugu State to provide Qualitative Education in Sciences, Health, Arts and Other Technical Knowledge and for Related Matters (HB. 589) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal College of Science and Health Technology, Mbu Isiuzo, Enugu State to provide Qualitative Education in Sciences, Health, Arts and Other Technical Knowledge and for Related Matters (HB. 589) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Paul Sunday Nnamchi — Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigeria Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 to Provide for the Regulation of Artisanal Mining and Refining, Smelting Refining and Refining and the Provision of Stiffer Penalties for Offences under the Bill, to increase the effectiveness and for Related Matters (HB. 751) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigeria Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 to Provide for the Regulation of Artisanal Mining and Refining, Smelting Refining and Refining and the Provision of Stiffer Penalties for Offences under the Bill, to increase the effectiveness and for Related Matters (HB. 751) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbefwi — Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency and Two Others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Solid Minerals.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Provide a framework for the Appointment of Staff of the Office of the National Security Adviser to enhance Institutional Memory and effective performance of the Responsibilities of the National Security Adviser and for Related Matters (HB.805) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide a framework for the Appointment of Staff of the Office of the National Security Adviser to enhance Institutional Memory and effective performance of the Responsibilities of the National Security Adviser and for Related Matters (HB.805) be read a Second Time” (*Hon Olajide Adediji Stanley — Ibadan South West/Ibadan North West Federal Constituency and One Other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on National Security and Intelligence.

13. **Rescission of the Resolution on the Sitting of the House (New Order Five, Rule 3) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on Tuesday, 7 November, 2023, it considered New Order Five, Rule3 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives on the Emergency sitting of the House was negatived;

Aware of the importance of Order Five, Rule3 which allows Hon. Members to participate in Proceedings by electronic means;

Cognizant of the need to rescind the decision on Order Five Rules 3;

Resolves to:

Rescind the decision of the House which negative New Order Five, Rules 3 of the Standing Order of the House of Representatives and commit it to the Committee of the Whole for reconsideration (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

14. Need to Investigate Illegal Mining in Solid Mineral Sector

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the significant economic potential of Nigeria's Solid Mineral Sector in contributing to the country's development and expansion of its revenue base;

Also notes the vast mineral resources in Nigeria that are largely untapped and underutilized, which can play a critical role in diversifying the economy, creating jobs, and boosting revenue generation;

Aware of the urgent need for focused intervention and radical measures to address the issues affecting the solid minerals sector and its underperformance, as indicated in the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) 2022 Report, which states mineral sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), at 0.63 per cent, or ₦1.10 trillion, and contribution to government revenue, at 2.62 per cent of the government's ₦6.63 trillion total revenue;

Concerned about the current challenges bedevilling the solid mineral sector because of illegal mining activities and acknowledging its detrimental impact on the environment, national security, and economic growth;

Worried about the loss of revenue from unregulated and illicit mining operations, costing the government \$9 billion annually with only 3 per cent royalties paid by a few licensed miners, hindering the country's mineral resource utilization;

Disturbed about the negative impacts of illegal mining, which have led to insecurity and conflicts over control of mining sites and their resources and escalated into violence, thus exacerbating existing political and social tensions in the affected communities;

Cognizant that due to the increased prevalence of illegal mining and other criminal activities affecting host communities, the governors of Taraba, Benue, and Nasarawa States have signed Executive Orders banning illegal mining to protect host communities and regulate mining activities in their States;

Recognizes the urgency of the Federal Government to swiftly and decisively address the revitalisation and development of this critical sector for the benefit of the Nigerian economy and its citizens;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to declare a state of emergency in the Mining Sector concerning illegal mining;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to make a special intervention in the 2024 budget estimates to provide for the establishment of Mineral Monitoring and Inspection Offices equipped with qualified manpower and equipment/infrastructure in the 109 senatorial districts of the country;

- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to constitute a special security task for two years life span comprising the Military, Department of State Security Services (DSS), Immigration, Civil Defence, and the Nigeria Police Force to embark on a sweeping exercise to flush out all illegal miners; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ibrahim Abdullahi Halims — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (iv) and *insert* as follows:
“mandate the Committees on Solid Minerals, National Security and Intelligence, Army, Police Affairs, Interior, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance” (*Hon. Gbewfi Gaza Jonathan — Keffi/Karu/Kokona Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (iv) as amended, and *insert* as follows:
“mandate the Committees on Solid Minerals, National Security and Intelligence, Army, Police Affairs, Interior, and Legislative Compliance to investigate the illegal mining of solid mineral sector and proffer solutions and report within four (4) weeks” (*Hon. Ali Isa J.C. — Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the significant economic potential of Nigeria's Solid Mineral Sector in contributing to the country's development and expansion of its revenue base;

Also noted the vast mineral resources in Nigeria that are largely untapped and underutilized, which can play a critical role in diversifying the economy, creating jobs, and boosting revenue generation;

Aware of the urgent need for focussed intervention and radical measures to address the issues affecting the solid minerals sector and its underperformance, as indicated in the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) 2022 report, which states mineral sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), at 0.63 per cent, or ₦1.10 trillion, and contribution to government revenue, at 2.62 per cent of the government's ₦6.63 trillion total revenue;

Concerned about the current challenges bedevilling the solid mineral sector because of illegal mining activities and acknowledging its detrimental impact on the environment, national security, and economic growth;

Worried about the loss of revenue from unregulated and illicit mining operations, costing the government \$9 billion annually with only 3 per cent royalties paid by a few licensed miners, hindering the country's mineral resource utilization;

Disturbed about the negative impacts of illegal mining, which have led to insecurity and conflicts over control of mining sites and their resources and escalated into violence, thus exacerbating existing political and social tensions in the affected communities;

Cognizant that due to the increased prevalence of illegal mining and other criminal activities affecting host communities, the governors of Taraba, Benue, and Nasarawa States have signed Executive

Orders banning illegal mining to protect host communities and regulate mining activities in their States;

Recognized the urgency of the Federal Government to swiftly and decisively address the revitalisation and development of this critical sector for the benefit of the Nigerian economy and its citizens;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to declare a state of emergency in the Mining Sector concerning illegal mining;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to make a special intervention in the 2024 budget estimates to provide for the establishment of Mineral Monitoring and Inspection Offices equipped with qualified manpower and equipment/infrastructure in the 109 senatorial districts of the country;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to constitute a special security task for two years life span comprising the Military, Department of State Security Services (DSS), Immigration, Civil Defence, and the Nigeria Police Force to embark on a sweeping exercise to flush out all illegal miners; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Solid Minerals, National Security and Intelligence, Army, Police Affairs, Interior, and Legislative Compliance to investigate the illegal mining of solid mineral sector and proffer solutions and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 342/11/2023**).

15. Road development and Erosion Control of the Underpass at Wawa and Kara Sections along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Lagos-Ibadan expressway is the oldest and most active intercity dual carriageway connecting Lagos to other parts of the country and facilitating international trade, with an estimated 250,000 daily passenger car units (PCU);

Observes that the two critical underpasses at the Wawa and Kara sections of the expressway were not factored into the scope of work (SOP), which can serve as traffic engineering to optimally utilize the road network when completed to reduce congestion during peak logging;

Aware of the wrap-up phase of the project at the Lagos end, which still requires additional scope at two sections of the Wawa and Kara underpasses;

Worried about the frequent loss of lives due to the lack of Pedestrian Crossover in the entire stretch of both the short and long bridges between the Wawa and Kara sections of the road;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to include the development of underpasses at the Wawa and Kara sections of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway before the demobilization of the contractor;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to construct roads to and from Wawa and Kara Markets as recovery zones for vehicles straying from the expressway;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works and Appropriations to ensure that budgetary provisions are made for the additional scope of work; and

- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 343/11/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, Appropriations, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

16. Need to Appraise the Condition of Nigeria Federal Roads

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. Call on the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to Eradicate Drug Bunks in the Country

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the functions of the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency, among others, are "strengthening cooperation with the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Police Force, Customs, Immigration, Welfare Officials, Health Officials, and Other Law Enforcement Agencies in the eradication of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances," as mandated by Section 3 (r) of the Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation, 2004;

Also notes the provisions of Section 3 (f) of the Act, which state that "adoption of measures which shall include coordinated preventive and repressive action, introduction and maintenance of investigative and control techniques";

Disturbed that recent statistics from the Agency showed 40% of Nigerian youth aged 18-35 involved in drug abuse, and according to a report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), over 14.3 million aged 15-64 engaged in the same;

Alarmed that drug bunks are being opened in strategic locations in various cities across the country and fast becoming hostels where young Nigerians are found spending their entire day. These bunks are well-known to security agencies and citizens;

Worried that drug abuse in Nigeria is a growing concern, affecting personal growth, societal values, and health and security risks, with hotels and transport companies allegedly aiding illegal activities;

Also concerned that the future of Nigerian youths is destroyed as they invest all their finances from legitimate or illegal means in enriching Drug Barons, affecting the country's development and progress, a situation which jeopardizes the future of youths and undermines the development and progress of the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to come up with a mechanism aimed at targeting the eradication of drug bunks in all the States of the federation; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Drugs and Narcotics to ensure compliance (*Hon. Emmanuel Ukpong-Udo — Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the functions of the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency, among others, are "strengthening cooperation with the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Police Force, Customs, Immigration, Welfare Officials, Health Officials, and Other Law Enforcement Agencies in the eradication of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances," as mandated by Section 3 (r) of the Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation, 2004;

Also noted the provisions of Section 3 (f) of the Act, which state that "adoption of measures which shall include coordinated preventive and repressive action, introduction and maintenance of investigative and control techniques";

Disturbed that recent statistics from the Agency showed 40% of Nigerian youth aged 18-35 involved in drug abuse, and according to a report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), over 14.3 million aged 15-64 engaged in the same;

Alarmed that drug bunks are being opened in strategic locations in various cities across the country and fast becoming hostels where young Nigerians are found spending their entire day. These bunks are well-known to security agencies and citizens;

Worried that drug abuse in Nigeria is a growing concern, affecting personal growth, societal values, and health and security risks, with hotels and transport companies allegedly aiding illegal activities;

Also concerned that the future of Nigerian youths is destroyed as they invest all their finances from legitimate or illegal means in enriching Drug Barons, affecting the country's development and progress, a situation which jeopardizes the future of youths and undermines the development and progress of the country;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to come up with a mechanism aimed at targeting the eradication of drug bunks in all the States of the federation; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Drugs and Narcotics to ensure compliance (**HR. 344/11/2023**).

18. Need to Rehabilitate and Upgrade Wuro-Kesum Dam Gassol, Gassol Local Government Area of Taraba State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Gassol Local Government Area of Taraba State, with a population of about 385,500 persons and a land mass of about 5.298 km² Area, lies on a flood plain where River Taraba converges with River Benue in the region of Upper Benue River Basin trough;

Also notes that because of its strategic location between two major rivers, the major economic activities in the constituency include fishing and farming;

Aware that the Wuro-Kesum Dam provides irrigation for agricultural purposes to the downstream farming communities of Wuro-Keso, Sandirde, Gassol, Mutual Biyu and Tella with over 1,500 hectares of land;

Concerned that the Wuro-Kesum Dam is dilapidated and in dire need of rehabilitation to revitalise economic activities in Gassol Local Government Area and its environs;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to provide funds for the rehabilitation and upgrading of Wuro-Kesum Dam, Gassol Local Government Area in the 2024 Budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Water Resources to ensure compliance (*Hon. Jaafaru Yakubu — Bali/Gassol Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In the Prayer (ii) immediately after the words “Water Resources”, insert the words “and Appropriations” (*Hon. Etteh Okpolupm Ikpong — Eket/Esit Eket/Ibeno/Onna Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Gassol Local Government Area of Taraba State, with a population of about 385,500 persons and a land mass of about 5.298 km² Area, lies on a flood plain where River Taraba converges with River Benue in the region of Upper Benue River Basin trough;

Also noted that because of its strategic location between two major rivers, the major economic activities in the constituency include fishing and farming;

Aware that the Wuro-Kesum Dam provides irrigation for agricultural purposes to the downstream farming communities of Wuro-Keso, Sandirde, Gassol, Mutual Biyu and Tella with over 1,500 hectares of land;

Concerned that the Wuro-Kesum Dam is dilapidated and in dire need of rehabilitation to revitalise economic activities in Gassol Local Government Area and its environs;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to provide funds for the rehabilitation and upgrading of Wuro-Kesum Dam, Gassol Local Government Area in the 2024 Budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, and Appropriations to ensure compliance (**HR. 345/11/2023**).

19. Need to Reconstruct the Abandoned Portions of the Oju-Otukpo Oweto/Oju-Adum Okuku and Oju-Adumn-Okuku and Oju -Uwoku - Abakaliki Roads

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

20. Consideration of Reports

- (i) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:***
That the House do resume consideration of the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House Representatives.

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(ii) *Ad-hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda:*

That the House do consider the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Legislative Agenda of the House of Representatives.

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

21. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 9 November, 2023 at 10.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.03 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker