The House met at 11.32 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.

The House recited the National Pledge

Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 12 December, 2019. The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Deputy Speaker recognised the presence of Members of National Union of Bauchi State Students, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State.

Notification of Vacancy:
Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that the seat of Magama/Rijau Federal Constituency of Niger State has become vacant as a result of the death of Hon. Ja’afaru Iliyasu (Magama/Rijau Federal Constituency), on Monday, 2 December, 2019, pursuant to Section 68 (1) (b), and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).

Hon. Leke Abejide (Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency and 1 other) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

(a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and

(b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 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.

Need to Address the Non-Stop Daily Kidnappings, Killings, and Armed Robbery Along Abuja - Kabba Roads:

The House:

Notes with serious concern the incessant kidnapping, killings, and armed robberies along the Abuja - Lokoja - Kabba Federal Roads, which have appeared to defy all security interventions;

Also notes that on Sunday, 13 December, 2019, 7 persons were kidnapped along Lokoja - Abuja Road, the first of which took place at about 6.00 a.m. when 3 passengers travelling along the road were kidnapped, while the second was in the afternoon when another 4 passengers were kidnapped on the same road;

Concerned that on 8 December, 2019, suspected armed robbers numbering about 10 attacked and fired shots at some passengers traveling along the same Lokoja-Abuja federal highway, killing 4 persons and on the 9 December, 10 persons were kidnapped, lives were lost, incidences continuing unabated on the 10 and 11 December, 2019 on those roads;

Aware that with the notorious highway flashpoints exist along Kwali to Lokoja federal highway; from Lokoja to Kabba highway; along Ife Ijumu and Egbeda; between Ekirin-Ade cmd Iyamoye highway; between Technical College, Mopa and Aiyetoro, and also between Isanlu to Egbe - Eruku highway in Kwara State;

Worried that during this festive period, high volume of vehicular movement is expected and road users may run the risk of facing bullets and falling prey to kidnappers on these roads;

Also worried that the daily chilling accounts of road users who fall victims to kidnappers and armed robbers on these roads call to question the readiness of the security apparatus of this country to withstand the menace of insecurity of our roads;

Resolves to:

(i) urge the Federal Government, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Inspector-General of Police, Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp. to jointly and urgently address the spate of kidnappings and armed robbery on the Abujo - Kogi Federal Roads to give a lasting and decisive solution to the menace;

(ii) also urge the Federal Government to direct the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FEMA) to commence the immediate repair of all Federal roads from Lokoja to Enugu; and

(iii) mandate the Committees on Defence, Police Affairs, and Interior to monitor the situation and ensure compliance (Hon. Leke Joseph Abajide — Yagba East/Yagba Ewst/Mopamuro Federal Constituency and 1 Other).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(i) Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:

“Urge the Security Chiefs to beam their search light on all the federal roads across the entire country for safety of lives during the festive periods” (Hon. Idem Unyime — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency).
Question that the amendment be made — **Agreed to.**

(ii) In Prayer (i), immediately after the word “Enugu” *insert* as follows:

“Bama - Pulka - Gwoza - Madabali roads; Maiduguri - Damboa - Biu roads; Maiduguri - Damboa - Chibok roads” (*Hon. Ahmed Jaha — Chibok/Damboa/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — **Negatived.**

(iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“Urge the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency on the security sector in the country” (*Hon. Lawan Shettima Ali — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — **Agreed to.**

*Question on the Motion as amended — **Agreed to.**

The House:

*Noted* with serious concern the incessant kidnapping, killings, and armed robberies along the Abuja - Lokoja - Kabba Federal Roads, which have appeared to defy all security interventions;

*Also noted* that on Sunday, 13 December, 2019, 7 persons were kidnapped along Lokoja - Abuja Road, the first of which took place at about 6.00 a.m. when 3 passengers travelling along the road were kidnapped, while the second was in the afternoon when another 4 passengers were kidnapped on the same road;

*Concerned* that on 8 December, 2019, suspected armed robbers numbering about 10 attacked and fired shots at some passengers traveling along the same Lokoja-Abuja federal highway, killing 4 persons and on the 9 December, 10 persons were kidnapped, lives were lost, incidences continuing unabated on the 10 and 11 December, 2019 on those roads;

*Aware* that with the notorious highway flashpoints exist along Kwali to Lokoja federal highway; from Lokoja to Kabba highway; along Ife Ijumu and Egbeda; between Ekirin-Ade cmd Iyamoye highway; between Technical College, Mopa and Aiyetoro, and also between Isanlu to Egbe - Eruku highway in Kwara State;

*Worried* that during this festive period, high volume of vehicular movement is expected and road users may run the risk of facing bullets and falling prey to kidnappers on these roads;

*Also worried* that the daily chilling accounts of road users who fall victims to kidnappers and armed robbers on these roads call to question the readiness of the security apparatus of this country to withstand the menace of insecurity of our roads;

*Resolved to:*

(i) urge the Federal Government, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Inspector-General of Police, Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp. to jointly and urgently address the spate of kidnappings and armed robbery on the Abujo - Kogi Federal Roads to give a lasting and decisive solution to the menace;

(ii) also urge the Security Chiefs to beam their search light on all the federal roads across the entire country for safety of lives during the festive periods;

(iii) also urge the Federal Government to direct the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FEMA) to commence the immediate repair of all Federal roads from Lokoja to
Enugu;

(iv) further urge the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency on the security sector in the country; and

(v) mandate the Committees on Defence, Police Affairs, and Interior to monitor the situation and ensure compliance (HR. 274/12/2019).

(ii) **Need to Checkmate the Trend of Mobilizing for National Youth Service Corps, Students who Graduate within Six Months from Universities in Benin Republic:**

Hon. Muhammed Bello Yakubu (Birnin Kebbi/Bunzai/Kalgo 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.*

**Need to Checkmate the Trend of Mobilizing for National Youth Service Corps, Students who Graduate within Six Months from Universities in Benin Republic:**

The House:

*Notes* that Nigerian now shuttle to Benin Republic where they graduate and obtain degree certificates in six months;

*Aware* that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), in October 2019, had refused to issue a certificate of national service to some former Corps members who graduated from institutions in the Republic of Benin and some other African countries after a rigorous one year compulsory service, the Director-General of NYSC recently accused universities in Republic of Benin of presenting unqualified persons for its one-year mandatory national service;

*Also aware* of the influx of Nigerian students into universities in Cotonou, Benin Republic to study and obtain degree certificates under a year due to reasons ranging from laziness on the part of such students to go through the normal four or more years in Nigerian Universities, to affordable school fees in Benin Republic and the inability to pass the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) examinations;

Worried that there are allegations of buying and selling of degree certificates in Benin Republic which is not properly looked into by the National Universities Commission (NUC), will impact negatively on the nation;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to investigate the matter back (Hon. Yakubu Mohamed Bello — Birni Kebbi/Bunzai/Kalgo Federal Constituency).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

(i) Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:

“Urge the NUC and Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) to investigate the matter and take appropriate actions” (Hon. Yusuf Tanko — Askich/Uba Hawal Federal
Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(ii) Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Urge the NUC to investigate not only First Degrees but also Masters Degrees in various professional fields with other regulatory Commissions to be involved in the investigation” (Hon. Haruna Mshelia — Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigerian now shuttle to Benin Republic where they graduate and obtain degree certificates in six months;

Aware that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), in October 2019, had refused to issue a certificate of national service to some former Corps members who graduated from institutions in the Republic of Benin and some other African countries after a rigorous one year compulsory service, the Director-General of NYSC recently accused universities in Republic of Benin of presenting unqualified persons for its one-year mandatory national service;

Also aware of the influx of Nigerian students into universities in Cotonou, Benin Republic to study and obtain degree certificates under a year due to reasons ranging from laziness on the part of such students to go through the normal four or more years in Nigerian Universities, to affordable school fees in Benin Republic and the inability to pass the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) examinations;

Worried that there are allegations of buying and selling of degree certificates in Benin Republic which is not properly looked into by the National Universities Commission (NUC), will impact negatively on the nation;

Resolved to:

(i) urge the NUC and Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) to investigate the matter and take appropriate actions;

(ii) also urge the NUC to investigate not only First Degrees but also Masters Degrees in various professional fields with other regulatory Commissions to be involved in the investigation and

(iii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to investigate the matter and report back (HR. 275/12/2019).

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance” (Hon. Awaji-Inombek Abiante — Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Need to Contain Cholera Outbreak in Andoni, Opobo and Nkoro Local Government Areas, Rivers State:

Hon. Awaji-Inombek Abiante (Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro 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.**

**Need to Contain Cholera Outbreak in Andoni, Opobo and Nkoro Local Government Areas, Rivers State:**

Notes the reported outbreak of cholera in over 10 communities in Andoni/Opobo/Nkoro (namely Ngo, Ayama Ekede, Oyoroto, Ilotomobi, Samanga, Unyeada, Afradighi and Ataba) with 65 cases and 11 deaths recorded so far; and the epidemic is spreading to other villages and neighboring communities;

Also notes that Cholera is an acute diarrheal disease that can kill within hours if untreated, it is found and spread in places where water supplies of the right quality and sanitation or toilet systems are poor;

Recalls that the Federal Ministry of Health reported 37,289 cases and 1,434 deaths between January and October 2010, while a total of 22,797 cases of cholera with 728 deaths and case-fatality rate of 3.2% were recorded in 2011 with outbreaks also recorded in 2018 by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) of 42,466 suspected cases including 830 deaths with a case fatality rate of 1.95% from 20 out of 36 States from the beginning of year to October 2018;

I that if not checked, this could result in another fatal outbreak leading to loss of lives and hardships in the communities and upon persons living in these communities;

**Resolves to:**

(i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and Nigeria Center for Disease Control to immediately deploy health workers to the communities to address the outbreak and control further spread.

(ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to urgently put machinery in motion to provide clean and portable water in the affected communities; and

(iii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Water Resources to ensure compliance (Hon. Awaji-Inombek D. Abiante — Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency).

**Agreed to.**

(*HR. 276/12/2019*).

Motion referred to the **Committees on Healthcare Service, and Water Resources**, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

**Need to Halt the Increasing Cases of Missing Persons in Nigeria:**

Hon. Zainab Gimba (*Bama/Ngala/Kalabalge 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.
Need to Halt the Increasing Cases of Missing Persons in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that there has been alarming increase in the cases of missing persons across the country in recent times as a result of insurgency, kidnapping, abductions, flooding, religious and communal conflicts, internal violence and disturbances;

Also notes that across the country, more than 10,462 persons get missing annually but only about two percent get back to their families often wounded or sexually violated while very few are also successfully recovered;

Aware that the cases of missing persons occur all through the year but are usually heightened at the end of the year, affecting both young and old, men and women of all classes in the society;

Also aware that many cases of missing persons are often unreported thereby increasing the total number of missing persons in the country;

Concerned that both civilians and security personnel who are saddled with the responsibility of protecting lives and property of citizens also fall victims of the situation;

Also concerned of the alleged complicity of security personnel in forced disappearances of countless number of persons, secret and unlawful detentions, inhuman torture and sexual assault of female detainees;

Further concerned that the unresolved cases of missing persons have left their families in anguish and the nightmare of not knowing if they will ever be found;

Deeply worried that Nigeria is now rated as the country with the highest number of missing persons in the whole world;

Resolves to:

(i) urge the Executive arm to:

(a) declare the status of missing persons who have not been accounted for across the country with a view to providing a sense of closure to the families and friends of the missing persons through the information provided,

(b) investigate the alleged involvement of officers of security personnel in forced disappearances, secret and unlawful detentions, inhuman torture, sexual assault of female detainees, forced marriages, and other vices,

(c) create a safer environment at this time and all through the year, for people to acquire education and go about other daily businesses without fear of getting abducted or victimized,

(d) initiate a missing persons' register in order to create a reliable data and work towards getting social justice for the victims; and

(ii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, and North East Development Commission (NEDC) to investigate the circumstances surrounding
the matter of missing persons as well as the complicity of officers of security personnel and report back within four (4) weeks (Hon. Zainab Gimba — Bama/Ngala/Kalabalge Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

(HR. 277/12/2019).

Motion referred to the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, and North East Development Commission (NEDC), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

6. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 4)
Hon. John Dyegh (Gboko/Tarka Federal Constituency), drew the attention of the House to a publication in Daily Trust newspaper of Monday, 16 December, 2019, titled “Constituency Projects! How Senators, Representatives steal billions — ICPC” allegedly accusing members of the National Assembly of duplicating contracts and inserting projects into the budgets as constituency projects under the guise of capacity building and empowerment projects amongst other unwholesome activities. He noted that the publication was a deliberate falsehood designed to denigrate the integrity of the Members of the National Assembly. He considered the publication as a breach of his privilege and that of the House and sought leave of the House to move a motion to that effect.

Leave granted.

The House:

Notes with grave concern the Daily Trust Newspapers Publication of Monday, 16 December, 2019 (front page) where the ICPC Chairman alleged that Senators and House of Representatives Members as stealing billions;

Also notes that in page 3 of the same publication, the ICPC Chairman was quoted as saying that “Constituency Projects Tracking Group tracked 424 projects from 2015-2018 Constituency Projects by lawmakers between June and August 2019 across 12 States — Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Benue, Edo, Enugu, Ino, Kano, Kogi, Lagos, Osun, Sokoto and FCT were duplicated using the same description, same narrative, same amount, same location and awarded by the same Agency”;

Concerned that this is capable of pitching the National Assembly members against their constituents and portray them thieves;

Worried that this is a deliberate attempt to rubbish and ridicule the National Assembly and portray it as not having credible persons;

Also worried that this is capable of destroying the image of the Nigerian Legislature before the International Community and make its members loose the respect which they earned before coming to the National Assembly;

Aware that no Court in Nigeria has passed any judgment on this Legislature or its members as thieves to warrant the Chairman of ICPC labelling it as such, has no right;

Also aware that the only Federal Government Project or benefit most communities source are the National Assembly Members Projects;

Resolves to:

Invite the ICPC Chairman to appear before the Committee on Anti-Corrupt for explanation (Hon. John Dyegh — Gboko/Tarka Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out all the words in the Prayer and insert as follows:
“Mandate the Committee on Ethics and Privileges to investigate the matter and report back to the House” (Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu — Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with grave concern the Daily Trust Newspapers Publication of Monday, 16 December, 2019 (front page) where the ICPC Chairman alleged that Senators and House of Representatives Members as stealing billions;

Also noted that in page 3 of the same publication, the ICPC Chairman was quoted as saying that “Constituency Projects Tracking Group tracked 424 projects from 2015-2018 Constituency Projects by lawmakers between June and August 2019 across 12 States — Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Benue, Edo, Enugu, Irno, Kano, Kogi, Lagos, Osun, Sokoto and FCT were duplicated using the same description, same narrative, same amount, same location and awarded by the same Agency”;

Concerned that this is capable of pitching the National Assembly members against their constituents and portray them thieves;

Worried that this is a deliberate attempt to rubbish and ridicule the National Assembly and portray it as not having credible persons;

Also worried that this is capable of destroying the image of the Nigerian Legislature before the International Community and make its members loose the respect which they earned before coming to the National Assembly;

Aware that no Court in Nigeria has passed any judgment on this Legislature or its members as thieves to warrant the Chairman of ICPC labelling it as such, has no right;

Also aware that the only Federal Government Project or benefit most communities surce are the National Assembly Members Projects;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Ethics and Privileges to investigate the matter and report back to the House (HR. 278/12/2019).
7. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

4. Aso Villa Hospital, Abuja (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.607).
5. Federal University of Technology, Lagos (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.608).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Urban Development and Regional Planning Commission for the Development and Improvement of Social Amenities in Urban Areas and Preparation of the Federal and Regional Physical Development Plans; and for Related Matters (HB. 388) — Second Reading**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

9. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Provide for a Single Term of Six Years for the President and Governors and a six year term for Members of the National Assembly and States Houses of Assembly; and for Related Matters (HB. 482) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Provide for a Single Term of Six Years for the President and Governors and a six year term for Members of the National Assembly and States Houses of Assembly; and for Related Matters (HB. 482) be read a Second Time” (Hon. John Dyegh — Gboko/Tarka Federal Constituency).*

*Debate.*

*Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time — Negatived.*

10. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal College of Agriculture, Warji, Bauchi State; and for Related Matters (HB. 520) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal College of Agriculture, Warji, Bauchi State; and for Related Matters (HB. 520) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Abdullahi Sa'ad Abdulqadir — Ningi/Warji Federal Constituency).*

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

11. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Polytechnic (Technical) Wailo, Ganjuwa, Bauchi State to Provide full-time courses in Technology, Applied Sciences, Management and Other Field of Studies to make provisions for general administration of the Polytechnic; and for Related Matters (HB.508) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Polytechnic (Technical) Wailo, Ganjuwa, Bauchi State to Provide full-time courses in Technology, Applied Sciences, Management and Other Field of Studies to make provisions for general administration of the Polytechnic; and for Related Matters (HB.508) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Dara zo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

12. Need to Rehabilitate Obiaruku-Utagba-Ugo-Ugili-Amai-Iselegu Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was established to implement projects, such as road construction and programmes for the sustainable development of the Niger-Delta Area;

Also notes that Ndokwa area is an oil and gas producing area but Obiaruku-Utagba-Ugo-Ugili-Amai and Iselegu road in Ndokwa is presently in deplorable state with so many failed sections that are making life very unbearable for the residents and road users;

Aware that the road is a major feeder road to Warri-Benin-Onitsha express road through which commuters and goods are conveyed to the South-Eastern Nigeria and also to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

Worried that the failed sections of the road have become haven for hoodlums, kidnappers and armed robbers, who are leaving tales of woes on road users with so many people losing their precious lives and properties;

Observes that it is on record that Ndokwa land is the only oil producing area in Nigeria that does not engage in militancy and destruction of oil facilities as a way of expressing their frustration and marginalization in the oil exploration process in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

(i) Urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to urgently embark on reconstruction/rehabilitation of the road;
(ii) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission to ensure compliance 
(Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

(HR. 279/12/2019).

Motion referred to the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission, pursuant to Order 
Eight, Rule 9 (5).

Constituency, Lagos State

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. Need to Rehabilitate the Failed Portions of Aba-Port Harcourt Road and Aba-Ikot Ekpene 
Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Aba-Port Harcourt expressway and Aba-Ikot-Ekpene road have been in state of disrepair 
for over ten years;

Also notes that in a few weeks, the nation, like the rest of the world, will be in yuletide season and 
New Year festivities;

Further notes that Aba-Port Harcourt road is strategic because of the high rate of commerce between 
Abia and Rivers States, equally Aba-Ikot Ekpene road is also strategic as it links Akwa Ibom and 
Cross River States and extends to the neighbouring Central African Country of Cameroon;

Informed that contract for rehabilitation of the 41 kilometers Aba-Port Harcourt road was awarded 
to China Civil Engineering and Construction Company (CCECC) with a completion date of January 
2020, while the 11.26 kilometers Aba-Ikot Ekpene road project was awarded to Arab Contractors in 
2009 with a completion period of 20 months;

Also informed that the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved N6.17b for augmentation of the 
contract for construction of Ikot Ekpene boundary Aba-Owerri road, the augmentation being to take 
care of dualization of the road from its original one lane status, with a 12 months completion period;

Aware that the approval, which was sequel to a memorandum presented to the Federal Executive 
Council (FEC) by the then Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing on May 2, 2019 covered 
the rehabilitation of Umuahia (Ikwuano)- Ikot Ekpene road, yet the road is still in a pitiable state;

Concerned that the deplorable state of Aba-Port Harcourt and Aba-Ikot Ekpene roads create a haven 
for armed robbers and kidnappers to attack unsuspecting road users, coupled with the attendant 
economic setbacks that the current state of the roads bring to commuters and people of the area;

Worried that with few days to the contract deadline, no appreciable progress has been made to 
alleviate the sufferings of travelers, even as we approach the yuletide season;

Resolves to:

(i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently take palliative measures 
to address the deplorable state of Aba-Port Harcourt and Aba-Ikot Ekpene roads;
mandate the Committee on Works to interface with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing with a view to drawing up a work plan for rehabilitation/reconstruction of roads in the South East and South-South Zones of the country, especially the Aba stretch of Enugu-Port Harcourt highway and Aba-Ikot Ekpene road (Hon. Ossy Prestige — Aba North/Abia South Federal Constituency).

Amendment Proposed:
Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Also urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to include Bende, Ohafia Federal Roads as well as Tumbuzor, Ikot Ekpene in Akwa Ibom State in their construction and rehabilitation of roads in Abia State” (Hon. Benjamun Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

(HR. 280/12/2019).

Motion referred to the Committee on Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

15. **Provision of Adequate Equipment for Kidney Dialysis Centres at Subsidized Rates in Federal Government Health Facilities in Nigeria**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that kidney disease is a serious condition associated with decreased quality of life, increased health-care expenditures and eventually, premature death;

Aware that the disease is usually caused by diabetes, high blood pressure and other disorders and is an emerging global public health problem which if left untreated, can result in end stage renal disease which would necessitate dialysis or kidney transplant;

Also notes reports that the disease affects 20% of Nigerians and can be linked to the rising cases of high blood pressure among the populace and the high cost of treatment and absence of functional dialysis machines at various kidney treatment centres are hampering the management of the disease;

Concerned that the disease has contributed to the nation's rising mortality rate as patients are unable to either afford the cost of treatment or access to the facilities which are fraught with enormous challenges such as inadequate funding, shortage of specialists, poor health promotion strategies and obsolete equipment;

Worried that most communities do not have a primary health center, thus making it difficult to identify a large pool of people with kidney disease and those at risk of developing the disease and where the facility exists, there may not be doctors and other health professionals to effectively man the center;

Also worried that in the northern part of the country, the major cause of death among kidney disease patients is the cost of consumables, which is making dialysis unaffordable and is discouraging patients from seeking timely intervention;

Cognizant that the prevailing poverty rate in the country, lack of government attention to those with kidney disease, low number of doctors in rural areas, low number of nephrologists in the country and lack of facilities to effectively manage those patients are major challenges that need to be addressed urgently;
Resolves to:

(i) urge the Federal Government to establish more fully equipped kidney dialysis Centres in health facilities across the nation, employ qualified personnel to manage the Centres and subsidize treatments for kidney disease patients in order to encourage them to seek early intervention, thus saving lives;

(ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture and the National Orientation Agency to commence sensitization campaigns, especially in rural areas, on the need to seek treatment in the healthcare facilities;

(iii) mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, Healthcare Services and Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values to liaise with relevant stakeholders with a view to ensuring that provisions are made in the 2020 budget estimates or any supplementary budget for establishment of fully equipped Kidney Dialysis Centres across the country (Hon. Zannah Usman — Kaga/Gubio/Magumeri Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(i) Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(ii) Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“Urge the Ministry of Health to formulate a regulatory framework for the operation maintenance and administration of dialysis facilities and treatments” (Hon. Benjamin Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(iii) Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
“Urge the Minister of Health to liaise with all relevant stakeholders to develop a framework for the subsidization of treatments for kidney disease patients” (Hon. Benjamin Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(iv) Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:
“Urge the Minister of Water Resources and the Director-General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to conduct an environmental impact assessment to ascertain the quality of portable water in Maiduguri and environs” (Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Darazo/Ganjuwala Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that kidney disease is a serious condition associated with decreased quality of life, increased health-care expenditures and eventually, premature death;

Aware that the disease is usually caused by diabetes, high blood pressure and other disorders and is an emerging global public health problem which if left untreated, can result in end stage renal
disease which would necessitate dialysis or kidney transplant;

Also noted reports that the disease affects 20% of Nigerians and can be linked to the rising cases of high blood pressure among the populace and the high cost of treatment and absence of functional dialysis machines at various kidney treatment centres are hampering the management of the disease;

Concerned that the disease has contributed to the nation's rising mortality rate as patients are unable to either afford the cost of treatment or access to the facilities which are fraught with enormous challenges such as inadequate funding, shortage of specialists, poor health promotion strategies and obsolete equipment;

Worried that most communities do not have a primary health center, thus making it difficult to identify a large pool of people with kidney disease and those at risk of developing the disease and where the facility exists, there may not be doctors and other health professionals to effectively man the center;

Also worried that in the northern part of the country, the major cause of death among kidney disease patients is the cost of consumables, which is making dialysis unaffordable and is discouraging patients from seeking timely intervention;

Cognizant that the prevailing poverty rate in the country, lack of government attention to those with kidney disease, low number of doctors in rural areas, low number of nephrologists in the country and lack of facilities to effectively manage those patients are major challenges that need to be addressed urgently;

Resolved to:

(i) urge the Federal Government to establish more fully equipped kidney dialysis Centres in health facilities across the nation, employ qualified personnel to manage the Centres and subsidize treatments for kidney disease patients in order to encourage them to seek early intervention, thus saving lives;

(ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture and the National Orientation Agency to commence sensitization campaigns, especially in rural areas, on the need to seek treatment in the healthcare facilities;

(iii) mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, Healthcare Services, and Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values to liaise with relevant stakeholders with a view to ensuring that provisions are made in the 2020 budget estimates or any supplementary budget for establishment of fully equipped Kidney Dialysis Centres across the country;

(iv) make adequate budget provision in the 2021 appropriation Bill for the establishment of more and fully equipped Kidney Dialysis Centres;

(v) further urge the Ministry of Health to formulate a regulatory framework for the operation, maintenance and administration of dialysis facilities and treatments;

(vi) still urge the Federal Government and Minister of Health to, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, develop a framework for the subsidization of treatments for kidney disease patients; and
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(vii) again urge the Minister of Water Resources and the Director-General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to conduct an environmental impact assessment to ascertain the quality of portable water in Maiduguri and environs (HR. 281/12/2019).

16. **Need to Review the Bilateral Air Services Agreements between Nigeria and Other Countries to Develop the Aviation Sector of the Economy**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

17. **Need to Address the Problem of Brain Drain in the Health Sector**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that there has been massive brain drain in the health sector in recent years as many medical doctors and other health professionals have been leaving Nigeria for other countries in search of better living conditions;

*Also notes* that the migration of health professionals has adverse effects on the healthcare system of the nation as it costs it much more than the benefits it derives from remittances by those diaspora professionals;

*Further notes* that in 2019, only 3.6% of the annual budget of ₦8.8m was allocated to the health sector;

*Concerned* that medical doctors and other health professionals are frustrated as lack of investments in the health sector, where a paucity of equipment and frequent strikes prevent them from doing their job to the best of their abilities;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Health Institutions to:

(i) investigate the problem of brain drain in the health sector and make recommendations on measures to curtail the trend;

(ii) organize a public hearing in collaboration with health care administrators and practitioners with a view to finding a permanent solution to medical brain drain in Nigeria (Hon. Emmanuel Ukpong-Udo — Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out the Prayer and insert as follows:*

“Mandate the Committees on Healthcare Service, and Health Institutions to investigate the problem of brain drain in the health sector and make recommendations on measures to curtail the trend and report back within four (4) weeks” (Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*
The House:

Noted that there has been massive brain drain in the health sector in recent years as many medical doctors and other health professionals have been leaving Nigeria for other countries in search of better living conditions;

Also noted that the migration of health professionals has adverse effects on the healthcare system of the nation as it costs it much more than the benefits it derives from remittances by those diaspora professionals;

Further noted that in 2019, only 3.6% of the annual budget of ₦8.8m was allocated to the health sector;

Concerned that medical doctors and other health professionals are frustrated as lack of investments in the health sector, where a paucity of equipment and frequent strikes prevent them from doing their job to the best of their abilities;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Health Institutions to investigate the problem of brain drain in the health sector and make recommendations on measures to curtail the trend and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 282/12/2019).

18. Need to Investigate the Activities of the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF)

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the report in the Vanguard Newspaper of 24 November, 2019 alleging a fraud of ₦2.3 billion against the Management of the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) which was carried out without the authorization of the Board of the Fund or approval of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment as the transaction exceeded the spending threshold of the Management;

Also notes that the report indicated that the Management allegedly awarded multi-million Naira contracts for the construction of office complexes of the Fund in twelve States of the Federation, in addition to approving millions of Naira as duty tour allowances for trips, in contravention of a recent directive from the Presidency banning such trips in order to reduce wastage;

Further notes that at the end of August 2019, the sum of ₦2,294,161,925 had, allegedly been spent on staff training which were mostly not approved by the Board or the Ministry of Labour and Employment, while many of the staff of the Fund claimed that they never attended any training, with a lot of infractions in the process;

Concerned about the claim by the Management that it had spent billions of Naira in settling outstanding debts to contractors but details of such debts were not provided for the Board or the Ministry, thereby raising suspicions about the genuineness of the claimed indebtedness and payments;

Recalls that the Fund had been embroiled in similar scams in the past, including the alleged diversion of ₦62 billion by the immediate past Chairman of the Board, who is currently undergoing trial;

Believes that there is an urgent need to investigate the allegations in order to reposition the Fund to deliver on its mandate and also help in stamping out corrupt practices in Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government;
Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity to investigate the activities of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund, especially in relation to the expenditure of ₦2.3 billion by the Management of the Fund and report back in four (4) weeks (Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the report in the Vanguard Newspaper of 24 November, 2019 alleging a fraud of ₦2.3 billion against the Management of the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) which was carried out without the authorization of the Board of the Fund or approval of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment as the transaction exceeded the spending threshold of the Management;

Also noted that the report indicated that the Management allegedly awarded multi-million Naira contracts for the construction of office complexes of the Fund in twelve States of the Federation, in addition to approving millions of Naira as duty tour allowances for trips, in contravention of a recent directive from the Presidency banning such trips in order to reduce wastage;

Further noted that at the end of August 2019, the sum of ₦2,294,161,925 had, allegedly been spent on staff training which were mostly not approved by the Board or the Ministry, thereby raising suspicions about the genuiness of the claimed indebtedness and payments;

Concerned about the claim by the Management that it had spent billions of Naira in settling outstanding debts to contractors but details of such debts were not provided for the Board or the Ministry, thereby raising suspicions about the genuiness of the claimed indebtedness and payments;

Recalled that the Fund had been embroiled in similar scams in the past, including the alleged diversion of ₦62 billion by the immediate past Chairman of the Board, who is currently undergoing trial;

Believes that there is an urgent need to investigate the allegations in order to reposition the Fund to deliver on its mandate and also help in stamping out corrupt practices in Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity to investigate the activities of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund, especially in relation to the expenditure of ₦2.3 billion by the Management of the Fund and report back in four (4) weeks (HR. 283/12/2019).

19. Consideration of Reports

(i) A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Council on Public Procurement and the Bureau of Public Procurement Act, No. 14, 2017 to Review the Mobilization Fees paid to Contractors, Institute e-Procurement and Provide time frame for the Procurement Process etc.; and for Related Matters (HB.583) (Committee of the Whole):

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.
(ii) A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps to Develop, Empower and Provide gainful Employment for the Youths, Facilitate Peace, Volunteerism, Community Services, Neighbourhood watch, Nation-Building; and for Related Matters (HB. 17) (Committee of the Whole):

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(iii) A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act, No. 17, 2017 to Allocate One Percent of the Maritime Fund to the Fund Established under Section 6 of the Maritime Operation Coordinating Board Act; and for Related Matters (HB. 477) (Committee of the Whole):

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(iv) Ad-hoc Committee to determine why the Warri, Port Harcourt, Onne, Calabar and Onitsha Ports Complexes are not being put to Maximal Use:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to determine why the Warri, Port Harcourt, Onne, Calabar and Onitsha Ports Complexes are not being put to Maximal Use and approve the recommendations therein”(Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):
Enhanced Maritime Security:
(a) urge the Federal Government to direct the Nigerian Navy to safeguard the water ways and partner with other countries in the Gulf of Guinea Commission as well as relevant security agencies of the United Nations on the need to checkmate activities of sea pirates in the Gulf of Guinea;

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
In the Recommendation, line 1, immediately after the words “Nigerian Navy to”, insert the words “strengthen their security” (Hon. Babangida Ibrahim — Malumfashi/Kafur Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(b) also urge the Federal Government to direct the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) to account for the 3% freight charges collected in the last 10 years, having failed to ensure the security of Nigeria water ways;

Debate.
Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Recommendation and insert as follows:
“Mandate the Committees on Finance, and Maritime Safety, to investigate NIMASA for the utilization of the 3% freight charges collected in the last 10 years, having failed to ensure the security of Nigeria water ways and report back within 8 weeks” (Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Oji River Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(c) equally urge for investigation of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) for its failure to secure Nigeria's waterways despite the huge sums being collected from ship owners;

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Recommendation and insert as follows:
“Condemn NIMASA for its failure to secure Nigeria's waterways despite the huge sums being collected from ship owners” (Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(d) further urge the Federal Government to fully implement the Suppression of Piracy and other Maritime Offences Act which provides for a legal framework to fight piracy and create more conducive maritime environment and the Deep Blue Project (the integrated National Maritime Surveillance and Security Infrastructure);

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
In the Recommendation, immediately after the word “environment” leave out all other words (Hon. Benjamin Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(e) again urge the Federal/State Governments and Communities to collaborate in handling the issues of piracy, kidnapping and robbery with the responsibility of discouraging the youths from getting involved in those vices;

(f) call on the House to investigate the payment of $50,000 to the Nigerian Navy before escorting vessels to its destination (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out all the words in Recommendation (i) (f), and insert as follows:
“Mandate the Committees on Navy, and Ports and Harbour to investigate the alleged payment of $50,000 to the Nigerian Navy before escorting vessels to its destination and report back within 6 weeks” (Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (i) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.
Recommendation (ii):
Unreliable Nautical Charts:
urge the Federal Government to encourage the Nigerian Navy (NN), which has commenced the actualization of the National Charting Scheme by developing indigenous charting capacity that will not only ensure self-reliance in surveying and charting of Nigerian waters but will also end the practice of sending survey reports to the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):
Marking of the Channels with Navigational Aids:
urge the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to survey and replace aids to navigating the waterways leading to those ports (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
In the Recommendation, immediately after the words “those ports” insert the words “and Committee on Navy to ensure compliance” (Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (iii) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):
Poor Road/Railway:
urge the Federal Government to facilitate the rehabilitation and re-construction of the Eastern roads/roads leading to the ports, and railways should be given priority attention to link all the State capitals (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
In the Recommendation, immediately after the word “Government”, insert the words “and other stakeholders” (Hon. Sani Bala — Tsanyawa/Kunchi Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Further Amendments Proposed:
Insert a new Prayer (iv) (b) as follows:
“That a standard guage rail line should be commenced immediately to enable the evacuation of goods on the Eastern rail line from Port Harcourt - Enugu - Maiduguri” (Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Oji River Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Insert a new Prayer (iv) (c) as follows:
“That the Eastern flank roads from Calabar - Katsina Ala - Maiduguri should be reconstructed by the Federal Government” (Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Oji River Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (iv) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.

Recommendation (v):
Poor/Obsolete Cargo Handling Equipment:
(a) urge the NPA to ensure the provision of appropriate cargo handling infrastructure for seamless port operations in the Eastern ports;

(b) also urge the NPA to enforce the provision of modern cargo equipment as a prerequisite for engagement as an operator (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).
Agreed to.

Recommendation (vi):
Tug Boats/Pilot Cutters/Breakwaters:
urge the NPA to urgently provide tug boats, pilot cutters and breakwaters for the safety of the waterways (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).
Agreed to.

Recommendation (vii):
Shallow Berths/High Siltations:
(a) urge the NPA to dredge all the ports to the minimum standard of 9-13 meters so as to allow vessels into those zones and to also reduce siltation;

(b) that the House do further investigate the Ministry of Transportation and the NPA on all the dredging contracts awarded in the last 10 years (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).
Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Recommendation (vii) (b), and insert as follows:
“Mandate the Committee on Ports and Harbour to investigate the Ministry of Transportation and the NPA on all the dredging contracts awarded in the last ten years” (Hon. James Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (vii) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.

Recommendation (viii):
High Lease/High Port Charges:
urge the NPA to review the lease fees and charges for the operators and to also consider deliberate implementation of a regime to reduce port charges in other ports other than Lagos port in order to attract shippers (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).
Agreed to.

Recommendation (ix):
Incentives:
urge the NPA to review the 10% incentives given to vessels going to the Eastern corridors by removing the condition attached to it, thereby allowing all categories of vessels to benefit from it and also consider a return to the previous 30% enjoyed by operators (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).
Agreed to.
Recommendation (x):
Collapsed jetties:
urge the NPA to urgently effect needed repairs to the damaged jetties at Warri and Onne Ports (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xi):
Communication Facilities:
urge the Federal Government to intervene (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Recommendation, and insert as follows:
“Urge the Nigerian Ports Authority and the Ministry of Transportation to immediately commence the rehabilitation of their communication infrastructure to enhance shipping” (Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Oji River Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (xi) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.

Recommendation (xii):
Low Tonnage of Exportation Products:
(a) urge the Federal Government to fund the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) so as to be able to build capacity of exporters and make available enough cash crops for export;

(b) also urge the NEPC to work closely with the Ministries of Agriculture and Solid Minerals Development and others stakeholders to promote export oriented items to help the diversification of the economy;

(c) further urge the Federal Government to fund the NEPC's programme on 'One-State-One Product' to stimulate production of Commodities by encouraging each State of the Federation to pick one or more products and develop them for export (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiii):
Electricity:
urge the Federal Government to connect Onne (the free trade zone) to the national grid and to provide electricity for all the ports (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiv):
Illegal Jetties:
Urge the Ministry of Transportation to bring them on board and license them (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Debate.
Amendment Proposed:
*Leave out* the Recommendation, and *insert* as follows:

“Condemn the operation of illegal jetties and urge the Federal Government to eradicate the illegal jetties across the country” (Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency)

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question that Recommendation (xiv) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.*

**Recommendation (xv):**

**Scanners:**

(a) urge the Federal Government to invite Siemens to assess the conditions of the Gantric scanners with a view to rehabilitating them;

(b) also urge the Federal Government to lease the handling of scanners to qualified companies while personnel of the Nigerian Customs Service should be trained to man the operations (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

*Debate.*

*Recommendation (xv) deferred.*

**Recommendation (xvi):**

**Onitsha Port Concession:**

urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation and the National Inland Waterways Authority to review the concession process and conclude it in time for activities to commence in the port (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

*Debate.*

Amendment Proposed:
*Leave out* the Recommendation, and *insert* as follows:

“Mandate the Committees on Ports and Harbour, and Inland Waterways to investigate the status of the Onitsha Port including the concession arrangement, its current operations and report back within 6 weeks” (Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Oji River Federal Constituency)

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question that Recommendation (xvi) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.*

**Recommendation (xvii):**

**Government Policy:**

(a) urge the Federal Government to introduce Single Window Environment for one stop shop for the payment of port charges and clearance of imports;

(b) also urge the Federal Government to create market policy or strategy that is relevant to each of the ports;

(c) further urge the NPA, NIMASA and Customs to encourage transshipment from seaports to inland waterways and other incentives to reduce costs, encourage patronage, reduce turnaround time and save the road infrastructure;

(d) again urge the Federal Government to encourage private entities to acquire flat bottoms that do rounds transporting consignments from Lagos to all major Eastern ports as well as bringing export cargoes back to Lagos (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).
Agreed to.

Recommendation (xviii):
Removal of Wrecks:
(a) urge the NPA and NIMASA to, as a matter of urgency, ensure the identification and removal of wrecks on the seaways;

(b) also urge the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) to expedite action on the removal of the Rig in Calabar within one month or Intels, the operator in charge of the jetty should be allowed to remove it and be refunded accordingly by AMCON;

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Recommendation, and insert as follows:
“also urge the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) to expedite action on the removal of the Rig in Calabar within six weeks” (Hon. Babangida Ibrahim — Malumfashi/Kafur Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(c) further urge the NPA to do a follow-up on the removal of the Rig (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Recommendation, and insert as follows:
“Mandate the Committees on Ports and Harbour, and Inland Waterways to do a follow-up on the removal of the Rig and report back within 8 weeks” (Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (xviii) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.

Recommendation (xix):
The Calabar Deep Sea Port:
urge the Federal Government to grant Sovereign Guarantee to investors to make the Calabar Deep Sea Port succeed (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Recommendation, and insert as follows:
“urge the Federal Government to consider issuing Sovereign Guarantees to investors to make the Calabar Deep Sea Port succeed after due diligence” (Hon. Haruna Mshelia — Askira/Uba Hawul Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (xix) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.
Recommendation (xx):

The Rivers Port Situation:
urge the Ministry of Transportation to approve expeditiously the complete overhauling of Rivers port as submitted by the NPA (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xxi):

Trade Dispute:
(a) urge the NPA to do what it can to resolve the matter since BUA has agreed to withdraw the case from the court;

(b) also urge the Committees on Ports and Harbours, and Waterways to follow-up on the NPA/BUA issue for compliance (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Recommendations, and insert as follows:
“Mandate the Committees on Ports and Harbour, Inland Waterways, and Justice to further investigate the trade dispute between the parties BUA group, and the NPA and report back within six weeks” (Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Oji River Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (xxi) as amended, stands part of the Recommendations — Agreed to.

Recommendation (xxii):

Refusal to Honour the Committee's Invitation/Request for Information:
that the House should compel the Management of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), and Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) to appear before the leadership of the House on their refusal to honour the invitation of the Committee (Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakub — Gambi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Recommendation, and insert as follows:
“Condemn the Management of NIMASA and Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) for refusal to appear before the Ad-hoc Committee and cause them to appear before the Ad-hoc Committee within 24 hours” (Hon. James Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to determine why the Warri, Port Harcourt, Onne, Calabar and Onitsha Ports Complexes are not being put to Maximal Use and approved Recommendation (i) as amended, approved Recommendation (ii), approved Recommendations (iii)-(iv) as amended, approved Recommendation (v)-(vi), approved Recommendation (vii) as amended, approved Recommendation (viii)-(x), approved Recommendation (xi) as amended, approved Recommendations (xii)-(xiii), approved Recommendation (xiv) as amended, deferred Recommendation (xv), approved Recommendation (xvi) as amended, approved Recommendation (xvii), approved Recommendations (xviii) - (xix) as amended, approved Recommendation (xx), approved Recommendation (xxi) - (xxii) as amended.
Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.

20. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 18 December, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.37 p.m.

Ahmed Idris
Deputy Speaker