



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 24 October, 2018

1. The House met at 11.59 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 23 October, 2018.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**

(a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Staff and Students of **Police Secondary School**, Minna, Niger State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of **Nurul-Bayan International Academy**, Wuse, Abuja; and
- (iii) Members of **Legislative Arm of Owan West Local Government**, Edo State.

(b) **Vacancy in the seat of Ekiti/Irepodun/Isin/Oke-Ero Federal Constituency:**
Mr Speaker read the following notification:

Honourable Members,

NOTIFICATION OF VACANCY IN THE SEAT OF EKITI/ISIN/OKE-ERO FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, HELD BY HON. ADEDOYIN OLUFUNKE

I write to notify Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 68 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, that the Seat of Toro Federal Constituency of Bauchi State held by Hon. Adedoyin Olufunke has become vacant.

2. *This vacancy is as a result of her death on 28th September, 2018, which was announced in the House Plenary on 9th October, 2018. She was a Member of the People Democratic Party.*

3. *This notification is in fulfillment of Section 68 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, and for the records.*

(Signed)

Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara

- (c) **Tribute to the Late Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Idris Kutigi (GCON)**
By leave of the House, the Chairman, House Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa, gave the following tribute in honour of the Late Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Idris Kutigi:

Hon. Justice Idris Kutigi was born on 31 December, 1939 in Kutigi Lavun Local Government Area of Niger State, and attended Niger Provincial Secondary School, Bida and Barewa College, Zaria, Kaduna State. He also schooled at the Institute of Administration, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria and Institute of Oriental and African Studies London, where he bagged his Law Degree. He was called to the English Bar in 1965, and the Nigeria Bar in 1966, respectively.

The late Chief Justice was a former Anthony-General of Niger State and also served as the Chief Justice of Nigeria from 2007 to 2009.

In 2014, he Chaired the National Conference on Constitutional Reforms.

Hon. Justice Kutigi was honoured with the Commander of Order of the Niger (CON) and the Grand Commander of the Order of Niger (GCON) in 2001 and 2007 respectively. The erudite and eloquent Justice died at the age of 78.

He will be missed by his family, friends and indeed, Nigerians.

In glowing tributes, some Members of the House also eulogised the former Justice.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

- (d) **Defection:**

Mr Speaker announced the defection of Hon. Hassan A. Omale (*Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*), from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

- (e) **Resignation of Party Membership:**

Mr Speaker also announced the resignation of Hon. Muhammad Musa Soba (*Soba Federal Constituency*), from the All Progressives Congress (APC).

- (f) **Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Inland Waterways Act and Enact the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority (IHB. 267 and IHB. 854):**

Mr Speaker announced the Membership of the Committee as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---|----------|
| (1) | Hon. Asadu Patrick | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Kabir Ajanah Mohammed | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Jafar Amere Akintayo | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. Hosea Charles Dan-Asabe | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. Bashir Baballe | — | Member |
| (6) | Hon. Ken Chikere | — | Member |

(g) **Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Crisis in the National Health Insurance Scheme (HR. 58/10/2018):**

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:-

(1)	Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai	—	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Nnanna Igbokwe	—	Member
(3)	Hon. Akinwunmi Nurudeen	—	Member
(4)	Hon. Dyegh John	—	Member
(5)	Hon. Samaila Suleiman	—	Member
(6)	Hon. Bukar Gana	—	Member
(7)	Hon. Olatunbosun George	—	Member

(h) **Change in the Leadership of Committees:**

Mr Speaker announced changes in the Leadership of the following Committees:

S/No.	Committee	Chairman	Deputy
1	FCT Judiciary	Hon. Dandutse Mutari	Hon. Ayo Omidiran
2	Rules and Business	Hon. Edward Pwajok Gyang	
3	Land Transport	Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin	
4	FCT	Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa	
5	Human Rights	Hon. Sadiq Abubakar	
6	Housing	Hon. Mahmood Mohammed	
7	Solid Minerals	Hon. Tajudeen Abbas	
8	Privatization and Commercialization	Hon. Haliru Jika	
9	Constituency Outreach	Hon. Yerima Ahmad	
10	Police Affairs	Hon. Lawal Abubakar Garba	
11	Population	Hon. Aminu Sani	Hon. Ayo Joseph
12	Special Duties		Hon. Tope Olayonu
13	Army		

4. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Ignatius Job, on the termination of his appointment by management of the Transmission Company of Nigeria, was presented and laid by Hon. Gideon Gwani (*Kaura Federal Constituency*); and
- (i) A petition from Ogunfolu Bisi, on behalf of the Akinsanya Community Development Association, on the non-replacement of the 500KVA Transformer by the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC), was presented and laid by Hon. James Faleke (*Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
 (i) ***Need to Save the Lives of People of Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency from Incessant Killings and Attacks by Cultists:***

Hon. Rita Orji (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.

Need to Save the Lives of People of Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency from Incessant Killings and Attacks by Cultists:

The House:

Notes that incessant killings by cult members is on the increase in Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal constituency for about three months running;

Also notes that the perpetrators of the killings are walking freely in Ajeromi/Ifelodun brandishing arms unhindered, mostly in Amukoko, Layinka, Alayabiagba, Tunkarimu, Alafia, etc.;

Further notes that these killer cult members are allegedly shielded by some politicians in the community making it very difficult for the Police to curb their activities;

Concerned that innocent people are always caught in the shooting spree with resultant deaths and injury to innocent ones;

Also concerned that these heinous killings are done with so much impunity such that efforts by the Police to curtail the crises always result in the burning down of their vehicles;

Worried that proliferation of arms in Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency can be compared to a community under siege and where citizens live in fear;

Also worried that commercial activities are shutting down as citizens fear being killed by stray bullets, especially as campaigns for 2019 elections are gathering momentum;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police and Chief of Army Staff to:
 - (a) send a crack squad to mop up arms in Ajeromi/Ifelodun and remain in operation till 2019 elections,
 - (b) arrest and prosecute the killers and gun runners to restore peace to the area,
 - (c) facilitate a meeting between community leaders to nip this menace in the bud and also avoid further escalation of the crisis,
 - (d) also facilitate a meeting with survivors and families of victims of these attacks to forestall future occurrence;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to fund the construction of Modern skill acquisition center in Ajeromi/Ifelodun, as approved in the 2017 budget; and
- (iii) further urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to facilitate various workshops in Ajeromi/Ifelodun on the ills of drug abuse and violence to enable the youths have a changed mindset (*Hon. Rita Orji — Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), to intervene immediately by sending relief materials to the victims and affected communities” (*Hon. Edward Pwajok Gyang — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that incessant killings by cult members is on the increase in Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal constituency for about three months running;

Also noted that the perpetrators of the killings are walking freely in Ajeromi/Ifelodun brandishing arms unhindered, mostly in Amukoko, Layinka, Alayabiagba, Tunkarimu, Alafia, etc.;

Further noted that these killer cult members are allegedly shielded by some politicians in the community making it very difficult for the Police to curb their activities;

Concerned that innocent people are always caught in the shooting spree with resultant deaths and injury to innocent ones;

Also concerned that these heinous killings are done with so much impunity such that efforts by the Police to curtail the crises always result in the burning down of their vehicles;

Worried that proliferation of arms in Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency can be compared to a community under siege and where citizens live in fear;

Also worried that commercial activities are shutting down as citizens fear being killed by stray bullets, especially as campaigns for 2019 elections are gathering momentum;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police and Chief of Army Staff to:
 - (a) send a crack squad to mop up arms in Ajeromi/Ifelodun and remain in operation till 2019 elections,
 - (b) arrest and prosecute the killers and gun runners to restore peace to the area,
 - (c) facilitate a meeting between community leaders to nip this menace in the bud and also avoid further escalation of the crisis,
 - (d) also facilitate a meeting with survivors and families of victims of these attacks to forestall future occurrence;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to fund the construction of Modern skill acquisition center in Ajeromi/Ifeleodun, as approved in the 2017 budget; and
- (iii) further urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to facilitate various workshops in Ajeromi Ifelodun on the ills of drug abuse and violence to enable the youths have a changed mindset; and
- (iv) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), to intervene immediately by sending relief materials to the victims and affected communities (H.R. 60/10/2018).

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

- (ii) **Need to Formulate Policy to Designate Delta Ports as National Export Base Corridors:** Hon. Daniel Reyenieju (Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 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 Formulate Policy to Designate Delta Ports as National Export Base Corridors:
The House:

Recalls that on June 23, 2016, it passed a resolution, need to Dredge the Escravos Bar Mouth and Re-Work Escravos Breakwater which it mandated the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways to engage the Federal Ministry of Transportation and other relevant maritime agencies with a view to ensuring the preparation and inclusion of the cost estimates of the dredging and breakwater construction of the Escravos bar entrance in the 2017 Budget;

Also recalls that the Federal Government has graciously acted on the resolution by awarding the contract for the Dredging of Escravos Bar Mouth and Re-Work Escravos Break Water of the Delta Ports for the sum of ₦13 billion and dredging has since commenced;

Notes that the Government has expended hundreds of billions of naira in the establishment, management, rehabilitation and continued maintenance of the Delta Ports and their facilities while currently expending on the dredging of the Escravos Bar Mouth and Breakwater;

Also notes that the Delta Ports comprises the:

- (a) Ultra-modern Warri Port,
- (b) Sapele Ultra-modern Port,
- (c) Koko Port (with natural draft),
- (d) Burutu Port,
- (e) NNPC Loading Jetty,
- (f) Delta Steel Complex, Aladja,

(g) Escravos Crude Export Terminal.

(h) Forcados Crude Export Terminal.

Aware that at the completion of the dredging, the resuscitation and use of Delta Ports will have an undisputable advantage of providing shorter distance for the haulage of cargoes billed for the States of Anambra, Imo, Enugu, Delta, Edo, Kogi, Ondo, Benue and the FCT, Abuja, when compared to the current operational ports in Lagos;

Also aware that when Delta Ports were operational, the various forms of commercial activities in and around those ports were providing direct jobs for over 100,000 youths and about 500,000 indirect jobs to other different age bracket which served as means of livelihood and thus, contributed to the peaceful atmosphere that existed in the areas;

Observes that the perennial congestion in Lagos Ports has resulted in situation whereby ships that are supposed to berth in the ports have, over the years, been diverted to berth at neighboring ports of Benin, Togo and Cameroon, with imported goods meant for Nigeria now being discharged in foreign ports and then re-transported by road to Nigeria at very huge costs, a situation resulting in huge revenue, job losses, lives and unabatedly encouraged smuggling of goods into the country;

Cognizant that the Delta Ports which currently have a berth depth of between 6 - 11 metres, will on completion of the dredging have between 9 - 11 meters as against Lagos Ports which have between 9 - 15 meters, making the Delta Ports accessible to all sizes of modern and heavy vessels resulting in huge revenue generation potentials for the country;

Worried that non-utilization of these ports will naturally precipitate the depreciation of the facilities and federal government's billions of naira investment in the continued rehabilitation and maintenance of the facilities and huge investment of Terminal Operators at the Delta Ports will go to waste if deliberate economic policies are not in place to put the Ports to use as export base hubs of the country;

Concerned that the circumvention of the Delta Ports comes at a huge costs to the Nigerian economy and Nigerians in terms of higher landing costs to importers, higher risks of loss and damage to cargo with higher insurance premium, incessant damage and short life span of inter-state highways due to pressure from articulated vehicles, and loss of productive man-hours amongst other costs that are not quantifiable;

Also concerned that upon completion of dredging of the Escravos Bar Mouth in which billions of Naira has been expended without deliberate policy to instigate maritime activities will amount to a waste of public funds and therefore notes with all seriousness the need to designate the Delta Ports as national export base corridors;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation and the management of Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to formulate policy to designate Delta Ports as National Export Base Corridors (*Hon. Daniel O. Reyenieju — Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 61/10/2018).

Motion referred to the Committee Ports, Harbours and Waterways, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

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. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iii) *Need to Investigate the Justice Obiora Nwazota Commission of Enquiry into the Activities of the Defunct Nigeria Airways Limited:*

Hon. James Faleke (*Ikeja 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 Investigate the Justice Obiora Nwazota Commission of Enquiry into the Activities of the Defunct Nigeria Airways Limited:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government under President Muhammadu Buhari has commenced payment and offsetting 50% of the outstanding entitlements of ex-workers of Nigeria Airways Limited in total sum of ₦22.6 billion only being the first tranche installment payment, while the other part payment of the balance of 50% in same amount is expected to be paid in 2019 due to paucity of funds;

Also notes that long before the advent of his administration precisely in 2002, the Obasanjo led Federal Government had established the Justice Obiora Nwazota Judicial Commission to probe into the operations of the company;

Aware that the Commission turned in a report which revealed the mind boggling corruption and looting to the tune of ₦60bn. The White Paper was approved by the FG and further directed the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Police to recover the stolen funds and prosecute the indicted culprits;

Worried that till date, nothing has been heard of the report and those indicted in the report are believed to be largely visible in the public arena while the ex-workers continue to languish in abject poverty having been denied their rights to their entitlements with many of them reportedly dead without receiving their entitlements;

Further notes that had the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Police acted as directed in the White Paper the ex-workers would not have suffered so much pains and deprivations;

Dumbfounded that despite the release of the White Paper and the approval given to the paper as well as the directive to the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Police by the Federal Governments on an enquiry of this magnitude, which affects the entire nation, the previous governments have refused to prosecute the culprits indicted in the report;

Further concerned that those who have been identified to have looted this humongous sum of ₦60bn in 2002, a sum whose value will no doubt be in the region of about ₦200bn in present day might have been using the said fund to fight, destabilize the government and in some cases, may have bought their way out of prosecution and possible conviction;

Resolves to set up an Ad-hoc Committee to:

- (i) investigate, reveal and make public, the identities of those indicted in the white paper report;
- (ii) identify those involved and indicted by the white Paper with the aim of ensuring they are prosecuted and made to refund the loot;
- (iii) reveal reasons why those indicted in the report of the white paper have not been prosecuted despite the Federal Government directive to the effect;
- (iv) identify any civil servant and or Political office holder who may have used his/her office(s) to thwart and or prevent those indicted from prosecution and possible conviction; and
- (v) make any other appropriate recommendations and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Faleke James Abiodun — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Government under President Muhammadu Buhari has commenced payment and offsetting 50% of the outstanding entitlements of ex-workers of Nigeria Airways Limited in total sum of ₦22.6 billion only being the first tranche installment payment, while the other part payment of the balance of 50% in same amount is expected to be paid in 2019 due to paucity of funds;

Also noted that long before the advent of his administration precisely in 2002, the Obasanjo led Federal Government had established the Justice Obiora Nwazota Judicial Commission to probe into the operations of the company;

Aware that the Commission turned in a report which revealed the mind boggling corruption and looting to the tune of ₦60bn. The White Paper was approved by the FG and further directed the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Police to recover the stolen funds and prosecute the indicted culprits;

Worried that till date, nothing has been heard of the report and those indicted in the report are believed to be largely visible in the public arena while the ex-workers continue to languish in abject poverty having been denied their rights to their entitlements with many of them reportedly dead without receiving their entitlements;

Further notes that had the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Police acted as directed in the White Paper, the ex-workers would not have suffered so much pains and deprivations;

Dumbfounded that despite the release of the White Paper and the approval given to the paper as well as the directive to the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Police by the Federal Governments on an enquiry of this magnitude, which affects the entire nation, the previous governments have refused to prosecute the culprits indicted in the report;

Further concerned that those who have been identified to have looted this humongous sum of ₦60bn in 2002, a sum whose value will no doubt be in the region of about ₦200bn in present day might have been using the said fund to fight, destabilize the government and in some cases, may have bought their way out of prosecution and possible conviction;

Resolved to set up an Ad-hoc Committee to:

- (i) investigate, reveal and make public, the identities of those indicted in the white paper report;
 - (ii) identify those involved and indicted by the white Paper with the aim of ensuring they are prosecuted and made to refund the loot;
 - (iii) reveal reasons why those indicted in the report of the white paper have not been prosecuted despite the Federal Government directive to the effect;
 - (iv) identify any civil servant and or Political office holder who may have used his/her office(s) to thwart and or prevent those indicted from prosecution and possible conviction; and
 - (v) make any other appropriate recommendations and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 62/10/2018)
- (iv) ***Call to Investigate the Red Alert Placed by Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA), on Human Flesh Found in Chinese Drugs in Nigeria:***
Hon. Agbonayinma Ehiozuwa Johnson (Egor/Ikpoba-Okha 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.

Call to Investigate the Red Alert Placed by Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA) on Human Flesh Found in Chinese Drugs in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that recently the Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA) placed the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC) and Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) on a red alert over a Chinese drug made with human flesh and Organs smuggled into Nigeria;

Aware that the Standard Organization of Nigeria confirmed the receipt of the letter sent on Chinese drugs reported to be made into capsules filled with powdered flesh from dead babies;

Concerned that making of human remains drugs and consuming them are crimes against humanity, which can also lead to serious health challenges;

Disturbed that if immediate measures are not taking to stem the influx of these drugs and the illegal importers it will continue to endanger the lives of citizens;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Women Affairs and Social Development, and Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values to invite the Nigerian Customs, NAFDAC and NIA to verify the presence of the said drugs in Nigeria; and

- (ii) identify the importers of the said drug and to prosecute them and their colluders, and to report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Agbonayinma Ehiozuwa Johnson (Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Federal Constituency)*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that recently the Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA) placed the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC) and Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) on a red alert over a Chinese drug made with human flesh and Organs smuggled into Nigeria;

Aware that the Standard Organization of Nigeria confirmed the receipt of the letter sent on Chinese drugs reported to be made into capsules filled with powdered flesh from dead babies;

Concerned that making of human remains drugs and consuming them are crimes against humanity, which can also lead to serious health challenges;

Disturbed that if immediate measures are not taking to stem the influx of these drugs and the illegal importers it will continue to endanger the lives of citizens;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Women Affairs and Social Development, and Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values to invite the Nigerian Customs, NAFDAC and NIA to verify the presence of the said drugs in Nigeria; and
- (ii) identify the importers of the said drug and to prosecute them and their colluders, and to report back within four (4) weeks (*HR. 63/10/2018*).
- (v) *Need to Address the Plight of the Communities Sacked by Flood in Ahoada West/Egbema/Ndoni Federal Constituency:*
Hon. Uchechukwu Nnam-Obi (Ahoada/Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni 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 Address the Plight of the Communities Sacked by Flood in Ahoada -West/Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Federal Constituency:

The House:

Notes the devastating effect of flood in Ahoada-West/Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Federal Constituency in Rivers State. The Flood has also wreaked havoc on several communities namely: Omoku, Okwuizi, Mgbede, Krigani, Ikiri, Aligu, Akabuke, Obieke, Obagi, Ohali Usom ini, Oborkburu, Ohali-Elu, Abomini, Olokuma, Okarki, Okparaki, Ikeodi, Kumusha

Ugovia, Udoda, Ogbogeló clan, Oruoma, Mbiama, Akinima (Jonkruma 1, 2, 3 and 4), Engeni, Ubiejoinkrema 1, Joinkrema 2 and Joinkrema 3, Odiopiti, Odhiegbor and Odicke. to mention but a few;

Aware that the persistent Seasonal Rainfall of this year has wreaked untold havoc on coastal areas and River Basin communities particularly in Rivers and Bayelsa States are currently experiencing flooding due to the rise in sea level and tidal surge in the above communities;

Worried that the devastating flood has ravaged crops, farmlands, dwelling homes and submerged worship places, schools in these communities while businesses and social life in these areas are at abeyance;

Concerned that the rains are still cascading torrents (pouring) in these communities and the situation is creating a very serious humanitarian crises as more than 25,000 families are rendered homeless and their means of livelihood destroyed by flood. The health and sanitary conditions in the IDP Camps have become very unbearable and deadly if urgent mitigative measures are not taken;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately wade into the situation with a view to addressing the plight of these communities affected by the harsh effects of the Flood by calmative measures providing relief materials to Ahoada-West LGA and Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA and provide immediate medical intervention to the IDP Camps;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Environment to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Environment, National Inland Waterways Agency (NIWA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to come up with palliative measures and Medical intervention to cater for those in the IDP Camps to prevent the spread of disease and maintain a good sanitary condition; and
- (iii) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased, little Master Henry Dike Ezebuike and 10 others who lost their lives in this unfortunate incident in Egbema in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA of Rivers State in trying to flee from the disaster (*Hon. Uchechuku Nnam Obi – Ahoada-West/Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 64/10/2018).

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

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

6. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Facilities Management Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1551).
- (2) National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1552).
- (3) National Commission for Peace, Reconciliation and Mediation (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1553).
- (4) Federal Capital Territory Health Insurance Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1545).

- (5) Federal Capital Territory Primary Health Care Board (Establishment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1546).
- (6) Harmonised Retirement Age for Teachers in Nigeria Bill, 2018 (HB. 1554).
- (7) Minerals and Mining Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1555).
- (8) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1556).
- (9) Defence Intelligence Agency Pensions Board (Establishment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1557).

7. Presentation of Reports

(i) *Ad-hoc Committee on the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited on reasons for the failure of the Ajaokuta Steel Company to commence Operation fully since its inception (**HR. 78/2018**)" (*Hon. Femi Gbajibiamila — Surulere I Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) *Committee on Interior:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Interior on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Prisons Act, Cap. P29, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Correctional Service Bill to make Provision for the Administration of Prisons and Non-Custodial Measures in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 487, HB. 516 and HB. 517)" (*Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba — Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) *Committee on Public Service Matters:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Service Matters on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Government Staff Housing Loan Board to Administer a Housing Loan Scheme for Federal Public Officers; and for Related Matters (HB. 1224)" (*Hon. Gogo Bright Tamuno — Okrika/Ogu/Bolo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) *Committees on Finance, Housing and Urban Development and Regional Planning:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Finance, Housing and Urban Development and Regional Planning on Alleged Non-Remittance of N5.6 Billion by the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (**HR. 123/2017**)" (*Hon. Ibrahim Babangida — Kafir/Malumfashi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo; and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 1539) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo; and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 1539) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).
- Debate.*
- Question that the Bills be read a Second Time — Agreed to.*
- Bills read the Second Time.*
- Bills referred to the Committee of the Whole.*
9. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal University of Education, Zaira; and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 1536) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal University of Education, Zaira; and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 1536) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).
- Debate.*
- Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Agreed to.*
- Bill read the Second Time.*
- Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.*
10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Forensic and Investigative Auditors of Nigeria for effective Regulation, Registration of Members and determination of what Knowledge and Skills that a Practitioner is required to attain in Order to Qualify to Practice as a Forensic and Investigative Auditor; and for Related Matters (HB.1540, HB. 1340 and HB. 1455) — Second Reading**
- Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*
11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Tobacco Control Act, 2015, to Address the Lacuna that may be easily Exploited by Tobacco Industry in Nigeria and to Cure certain Defects in the Act, ensure its Effective Implementation in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1176 and HB. 1503) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Tobacco Control Act, 2015, to Address the Lacuna that may be easily Exploited by Tobacco Industry in Nigeria and to Cure certain Defects in the Act, ensure its Effective Implementation in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1176 and HB. 1503) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Muhammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).
- Debate.*
- Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Agreed to.*
- Bill read the Second Time.*
- Bill referred to the Committee on Healthcare Services.*

12. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to increase the Retirement Age of Judicial Officers Appointed to Other Courts other than the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal; and for Related Matters (HB. 1254) — **Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to increase the Retirement Age of Judicial Officers Appointed to Other Courts other than the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal; and for Related Matters (HB. 1254) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu - West Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on the Review 1999 Constitution.

13. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy Act, No. 8 of 2017, to Provide for Amendment of the Interpretation Section to Bring the Act in Conformity with Other Existing Laws in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 1496) — **Second Reading**
- Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy Act, No. 8 of 2017, to Provide for Amendment of the Interpretation Section to Bring the Act in Conformity with Other Existing Laws in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 1496) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Gideon Gwani — Kaura Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

14. Rescission of Clauses 1-26 of the Bill for an Act to Amend the Provisions of the Electoral Act, No. 6 of 2010; and for Related Matters (HB. 1544), Pursuant to Order One, Rule 1 (2) and Order Nine, Rule 1 (6) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives
- Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

Notes that Clauses 1-26 of the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 was considered and adopted on Wednesday, 17 October, 2018 and deferred further consideration of the remaining clauses of the Bill;

Aware of certain new matters considered pertinent to the electoral process to be captured in the Bill to ensure transparent and credible 2019 Elections;

Resolves to:

Rescind its decision on Clauses 1-26 of the Bill for an Act to Amend the Provisions of the Electoral Act, No. 6 of 2010 and for Related Matters and re-commit the Bill to the Committee of the Whole for further legislative action (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

15. Need to Investigate Increasing Rate of Adulterated Petroleum Products in Nigeria and its Negative Impacts

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that adulteration of petroleum products is the mixing of pure products with other substances, thus diminishing the quality of the original products;

Aware that recently as a result of greed for higher profits, marketers of petroleum products resorted to adulteration of Petroleum Products without putting into consideration the danger to consumers and consequent economic losses to the country;

Concerned that adulterated products can be dangerous to consumers who use the products as domestic fuel as well as for vehicles;

Worried that adulteration of the products causes serious health hazard to human life, the environment and properties;

Also aware that the negative effects of Petroleum products adulterated can result to significant loss in government revenue, and other economic losses;

Anxious to ensure that the security, safety and wellbeing of all citizens are protected and to safeguard government revenue from loss owing to the attendant effects of adulterated Petroleum products;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, and Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to prevail on the Regulatory Agencies to step up its activities in checkmating adulteration of petroleum products and to continually monitor such departments or Agencies as part of its oversight functions and report back to the House quarterly (*Hon. Joseph Eghogho Edionwele — Esan Central/Esan West/Igbeben Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that adulteration of petroleum products is the mixing of pure products with other substances, thus diminishing the quality of the original products;

Aware that recently as a result of greed for higher profits, marketers of petroleum products resorted to adulteration of Petroleum Products without putting into consideration the danger to consumers and consequent economic losses to the country;

Concerned that adulterated products can be dangerous to consumers who use the products as domestic fuel as well as for vehicles;

Worried that adulteration of the products causes serious health hazard to human life, the environment and properties;

Also aware that the negative effects of Petroleum products adulterated can result to significant loss in government revenue, and other economic losses;

Anxious to ensure that the security, safety and wellbeing of all citizens are protected and to safeguard government revenue from loss owing to the attendant effects of adulterated Petroleum products;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, and Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to prevail on the Regulatory Agencies to step up its activities in checkmating adulteration of petroleum products and to continually monitor such departments or Agencies as part of its oversight functions and report back to the House quarterly (HR. 65/10/2018).

16. **Need to Investigate the Failure of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) in maintaining Standards and Professionalism of Accountancy, Complicity of ICAN Trained Accountants in Sharp Practices and Corruption and its implication on the Nigerian Economy**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. **Consideration of Report
A Bill for an Act to Amend the Provisions of the Electoral Act, No 6 of 2010; and for Related Matters (HB. 1544) (Committee of the Whole):
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Provisions of the Electoral Act, No 6 of 2010; and for Related Matters (HB. 1544) and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada 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)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTORAL ACT, NO. 6, 2010
AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH (HB.1544)

Clause 1: **Amendment of Section 8: Secretary to the commission.**

(1) There shall be a Secretary to the Commission who shall —

(a) be appointed by the Commission;

(b) have such qualifications and experience to be determined by the Commission as are appropriate for a person required to perform the functions of his office under this Bill.

(2) Subject to the general direction of the Commission, the Secretary shall be —

(a) responsible for keeping of proper records of the proceedings of the Commission;

(b) the head of the Commission's secretariat and be responsible for administration thereof; and

(c) responsible for the direction and control of all other employees of the Commission with the approval of the Commission.

(3) The Commission shall have power to appoint, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over its staff as may be prescribed by this Bill or other enactment or law.

- (4) All employees of the Commission appointed pursuant to subsection (3) of this section excluding such as are appointed on a temporary basis for an honorarium shall have the same right and obligation as provided for in the Pension Reform Act.

Insertion of new Subsection (5):

- (5) a person, who being a member of a political party, misrepresents himself by not disclosing his membership, affiliation, or connection to any political party in order to secure an appointment with the Commission in any capacity, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of at 5 years or a fine of ₦5,000,000, or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2:

Amendment of Section 9: National Register of Voters and Voters' Registration.

- (1) The Commission shall compile, maintain, and update on a continuous basis, a National Register of Voters, in this Bill referred to as the "Register of Voters" which shall include the names of all persons entitled to vote in any Federal, State or Local Government or Area Council elections.
- (2) The Commission shall keep the Register of Voters as the National Register of Voters in its National Headquarters and or other locations as the Commission may determine from time to time:

Provided that the Commission shall keep the Register of Voters in —

- (a) electronic format in its central database.
- (b) manual, printed, paper-based record or hard copy format.
- (5) The registration of voters, updating and revision of the register of voters under this section shall stop not later than 60 days before any election covered by this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3:

Amendment of Section 15: Power to print and issue register of Voters.

- (1) The Commission shall cause a voters' register for each State to be "printed, reproduced, copied, duplicated or saved in an electronic format" and any person or political party may obtain from the Commission, on payment of such charges, a certified-true copy of any voters' register for the State or for a Local Government or Area Council or registration area within it (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4:

Amendment of Section 18: Power to issue duplicate voters' card.

- (1) Whenever a Voter's card is lost, destroyed, defaced, torn or otherwise damaged, the owner of such card, not less than 60 days before the polling day shall, apply in person to the Electoral Officer or any other duly authorised officer for that purpose by the Resident Electoral Commissioner, stating the circumstances of the loss, destruction, defacement or damage.

- (2) If the Electoral Officer or any other authorized officer is satisfied as to the circumstances of the loss, destruction, defacement or damage of the voters card, he shall cause to be issued to the voter a replacement of a permanent voter's card.
- (3) No person shall issue a replacement of a permanent voters card to any voter on polling day or less than 30 days before polling day
- (4) Any person who contravenes subsection (3) of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to 5 years imprisonment or a fine of ₦5,000,000.00 or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Amendment of Section 19: Display of the copies of the voters' list.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of section 9 (5) of this Bill, the Commission shall not later than 30 days to a general election, appoint a period of 7 days during which a copy of the voters' register for each Local Government, Area Council or Ward shall be displayed or published for public scrutiny at every Registration Area and on its official website or any website established by the Commission for that purpose"
- (2) Upon displaying or publishing the voters' register in accordance with this section, the Commission shall accept and consider objections and complaints in relation to the names omitted or included in the voters' register or in relation to any necessary correction, within 14 days of publishing the voters' register in accordance with this section.
- (3) An official or staff of the Commission who wilfully fails to display or publish the voters' register as provided under subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of 6 months or a fine of ₦100,000.00 or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Amendment of Section 30: Notice of Election.

- (1) The Commission shall not later than 150 days before the day appointed for the holding of an election under this Bill publish a notice in each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory —
 - (a) stating the date of the election; and
 - (b) appointing the place at which nomination papers are to be delivered (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Amendment of Section 31: Submission of list of candidates and their affidavits by political parties.

- (6) If the Court determines that any of the information contained in the affidavit is false, the Court shall issue an order disqualifying the candidate from contesting the election, if already elected, shall not be eligible to contest another election which shall be conducted within 90 days by the Commission.

- (8) A political party which presents to the Commission the name of a candidate who does not meet the qualification stipulated in this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦5,000,000.00 (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Amendment of Section 33: Political parties changing candidates.

- (1) No Political Party shall be allowed to change or substitute its candidate whose name has been submitted pursuant to Section 32 of this of this Bill, except in the case of death or withdrawal by the candidate.
- (2) Provided that in the case of such withdrawal or death of a candidate, the political party affected shall, within 10 days of the occurrence of the event, hold a fresh primary election to produce and submit a fresh candidate to the Commission for the election concerned (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Amendment of Section 34: Publication of nomination.

- (1) The Commission shall, at least thirty days before the day of the election publish by displaying or causing to be displayed at the relevant office or offices of the Commission and on the Commission's website, a statement of the full names and addresses of all candidates standing nominated.
- (2) Any candidate who observes his name or that of his party missing on the list published in accordance with subsection (1), shall notify the Commission in writing, signed by himself and supported with an affidavit not later than 28 days to the election.
- (3) Where the candidate fails to notify the Commission in accordance with subsection (2), the candidate shall be deemed to have waived his right.
- (4) The Commission shall produce ballot papers for the relevant elections in accordance with the list published after corrections in conformity with subsection (2) (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Amendment of Section 36: Death of a candidate.

- (1) If after the time for the delivery of nomination paper and before the commencement of the poll, a nominated candidate dies, the Chief National Electoral Commissioner or the Resident Electoral Commissioner shall, being satisfied of the fact of the death, countermand the poll in which the deceased candidate was to participate and the Commission shall appoint some other convenient date for the election within 14 days:

Provided that the political party whose candidate died may, if it intends to continue to participate in the election, conduct a fresh primary within 7 days of the death of its candidate and submit a new candidate to the Commission to replace the dead candidate.

- (2) The list of voters to be used at a postponed election shall be the official voters register, which was to be used if the election had not been postponed.

Insertion of new subsection (3) (a) - (c).

- (3) If after the commencement of poll and before declaration of a winner, a leading candidate whose votes affect the results of the election dies —
- (a) the Commission shall, being satisfied of the fact of the death, suspend the election for a period not exceeding 21 days;
 - (b) the political party whose candidate died may, if it intends to continue to participate in the election, conduct a fresh primary within 7 days of the death of its candidate and submit a new candidate to the Commission to replace the dead candidate;
 - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b), the Commission shall continue with the election, announce the final result and declare a winner (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Amendment of Section 38: Failure of a nomination.

- (1) Where at the close of nomination there is no candidate validly nominated, the Commission shall extend the time for nomination and fix a new date for the election.

Insertion of new Subsections (2)-(5):

- (2) Where there is a valid nomination by at least one political party, failure of a political party to validly nominate a candidate shall not constitute ground for extension of time for nomination or postponement of election.
- (3) Polling Agents who are in attendance at a polling unit, are entitled, before the commencement of the election, to have originals of electoral materials, including ballot papers, result sheets, ballot papers' account and verification documents and other electoral forms to be used by the Commission for the election inspected, and this process may be recorded in writing, on video or by other means by any Polling Agent, accredited observer or official of the Commission.
- (4) Where it is determined that there has been a substantial compliance with this provision in respect of the polling unit, the elections at that polling unit shall not be invalidated.
- (5) A Presiding Officer who contravenes subsection (3) or (4) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to at least a term of one year in prisonment or a fine of ₦1,000,000, or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 12: Amendment of Section 44: Format of ballot papers.

- (1) The Commission shall prescribe the format of the ballot papers which shall include the symbol adopted by the Political Party of the candidate and such other information as it may require.
- (2) The ballot papers shall be bound in booklets and numbered serially with differentiating colours for each office being contested.

Insertion of new Subsections (3)-(5):

- (3) The Commission shall, not later than 40 days to an election, invite in writing, a political party that nominated a candidate in the election to inspect its identity appearing on samples of relevant electoral materials proposed for the election, and the political party shall state in writing two days of being so invited by the Commission that it approves or disapproves of its identity as it appears on the samples.
- (4) Unless the political party disapproves of its identity as provided under subsection (3), it shall not complain of unlawful exclusion from the election under this Bill in relation to its identity appearing on electoral materials used for the election.
- (5) A political party that fails to comply with an invitation by the Commission under subsection (3) shall be deemed to have approved its identity on samples of electoral materials proposed to be used for an election (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Amendment of Section 48: Display of Ballot Boxes.

- (1) At the hour fixed for opening of the poll, before the commencement of accreditation and voting, the Presiding Officer shall open the empty ballot box and show same to such persons as may lawfully be present at the Polling unit and shall then close and seal the box in such manner as to prevent its being opened by unauthorized person(s) (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Amendment of Section 49: Issue of Ballot Papers.

- (1) A person intending to vote in an election shall present himself with his voter's card to a Presiding Officer for accreditation at the polling unit in the constituency in which his name is registered.
- (2) The Presiding Officer shall use a Smart Card Reader or any other similar technological device that may be prescribed by the Commission, for the accreditation of voters, to verify, confirm or authenticate the particulars of the voter in the manner prescribed by the Commission.
- (3) The presiding officer shall on being satisfied with the accreditation of the voter in the manner prescribed by the commission issue the voter a ballot paper and indicate on the register that the person has voted.
- (4) Where a smart card reader deployed for accreditation of voters fails to function in any polling unit and a fresh card reader is not deployed 3 hours before the close of the election in that unit or units, then the election shall not hold but be rescheduled and conducted within 24 hours thereafter.

Provided that where the total possible votes from all the affected card readers in the unit or units does not affect the overall result in the constituency or election concerned, the commission shall notwithstanding the fact that a fresh card reader is not deployed as stipulated, announce the final results and declare a winner (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Amendment of Section 52: Conduct of poll by open secret ballot.

- (1) Voting at an election under this Bill shall be by open secret ballot.
- (2) A voter on receiving a ballot paper shall mark it in the manner prescribed by the Commission.
- (3) All ballots at an election under this Bill at any polling station shall be deposited in the ballot box in the open view of the public.
- (4) The Commission shall adopt electronic voting in all elections or any other method of voting as may be determined by the Commission from time to time (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Amendment of Section 53: Over voting.

- (1) No voter shall vote for more than one candidate or record more than one vote in favour of any candidate at any one election.
- (2) Where the votes cast at an election in any polling unit exceed the number of accredited voters in that polling unit, the result of the election for that polling unit shall be declared null and void by the Commission and another election may be conducted at a date to be fixed by the Commission where the result at that polling unit may affect the overall result in the Constituency.
- (3) Where an election is nullified in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, there shall be no return for the election until another poll has taken place in the affected area.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (2) and (3) of this section the Commission may, if satisfied that the result of the election will not substantially be affected by voting in the area where the election is cancelled, direct that a return of the election be made (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Amendment of Section 63: Counting of votes and forms.

- (1) The Presiding Officer shall, after counting the votes at the polling unit, enter the votes scored by each candidate in a form to be prescribed by the Commission as the case may be.
- (2) The Form shall be signed and stamped by the Presiding Officer and countersigned by the candidates or their polling agents where available at the Polling unit.
- (3) The Presiding Officer shall give to the Polling Agents and the police officer where available a copy each of the completed Forms after it has been duly signed as provided in subsection (2) of this section.
- (4) The Presiding Officer shall announce the result at the polling unit and transmit same in the manner prescribed by the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 17 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 18: Amendment of Section 65: Election procedure and collation of election results.

- (1) After the recording of the result of the election, the Presiding Officer shall announce the result and deliver same and election materials under security to such persons as may be prescribed by the Commission.
- (2) The Commission shall compile, maintain and update, on a continuous basis, a register of election results to be known as the National Electronic Register of Election Results which shall be a distinct database or repository of polling unit by polling results, including collated election results, of each election conducted by the Commission in the Federation, and the Register of Election Results shall be kept in electronic format by the Commission at its National Headquarters.
- (3) Any person or political party may obtain from the Commission, on payment of such fees as may be determined by the Commission, a certified true copy of any election result kept in the National Electronic Register of Election Results for a State, Local Government, Area Council, Ward or Polling Unit, as the case may be and the certified true copy may be in printed or electronic format (*Hbn. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 19: Amendment of Section 67: Endorsement of rejected ballot paper without official mark.

- (1) The Presiding Officer shall endorse the word "rejected" on the ballot paper rejected under section 54 (1) of this Bill and for any other reason, and the ballot papers shall not be counted except otherwise allowed by the Returning Officer who may overrule the Presiding Officer.
- (2) If an objection to the decision of a Presiding Officer to reject a ballot paper is raised by a candidate or a polling agent at the time the decision is made, the Presiding Officer shall add to the word "rejected", the phrase "but objected to".
- (3) The presiding officer shall prepare a statement on rejected ballot papers, stating the number rejected, the reason for rejection and their serial number, he shall on request allow a candidate or a polling agent to copy the statement.

Insertion of new Subsections (4)-(9):

- (4) A Collation Officer or Returning Officer at an election shall collate and announce the result of an election, subject to his verification and confirmation that the —
 - (a) number of accredited voters stated on the collated result are correct and consistent with the number of accredited voters recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 49 (2) of this Bill.
 - (b) the votes stated on the collated result are correct and consistent with the votes or results recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 63 (4) of this Bill.
- (5) Subject to subsection (1), a Collation Officer or Returning Officer shall use the number of accredited voters recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 49 (2) of this Bill and the votes or results recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 63 (4) of

this Bill to collate and announce the result of an election if a collated result at his or a lower level of collation is not correct.

- (6) Where during collation of results, there is a dispute regarding a collated result or the result of an election from any polling unit, the Collation Officer or Returning Officer shall use the following to determine the correctness of the disputed result:
 - (a) the original of the disputed collated result for each polling unit where the election is disputed.
 - (b) the smart card reader or any other similar technological device used for accreditation of voters in each polling unit where the election is disputed for the purpose of obtaining accreditation data directly from the Smart Card Reader or any other similar technological device.
 - (c) date of accreditation recorded and transmitted directly from each polling unit where the result is disputed as prescribed under section 49 (2) of this Bill.
 - (d) the votes and result of the election recorded and transmitted directly from each polling unit where the result is disputed, as prescribed under section 63 (4) of this Bill.
- (7) If the disputed result under subsection (6) were otherwise found not to be correct, the Collation Officer or Returning Officer shall re-collate and announce a new result using the information in subsection (6) (a)-(d).
- (8) Where the dispute under subsection (6) arose at the level of collation and the Returning Officer has satisfied the provision of subsection (6), the Returning Officer shall accordingly declare the winner of the election.
- (9) A Returning Officer or Collation Officer, as the case may be, commits an offence if he intentionally collates or announces false result, he shall be liable on conviction, to a term of at least 5 years imprisonment, without an option of fine (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 19 s and part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 20: Amendment of Section 76: Forms for use at elections.

- (1) The forms to be used for the conduct of elections under this Bill shall be determined by the Commission.

Insertion of new Subsection (2):

- (2) An election conducted at a polling unit without the prior recording in the forms prescribed by the Commission of the quantity, serial numbers and other particulars of results sheets, ballot papers and other sensitive electoral materials made available by the Commission for the conduct of the election shall be invalid, provided that the election shall not be invalidated where it is determined that the extent of the non-compliance is not such that would affect the integrity of the process at the polling unit (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 20 s and part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 21: Amendment of Section 78: Powers of the Commission to register political parties.

- (4) A political association that meets the conditions stipulated in the Constitution and this Bill shall be registered by the Commission as a political party within 60 days from the date of receipt of the application, and if after the 60 days such association is not registered by the Commission, unless the Commission informs the association to the contrary, it shall be deemed to have been registered.
- (5) An association, its executive members or principal officers who give false or misleading information, commit an offence and is liable on conviction, in the case of —
 - (a) the association to a fine of ₦5,000,000;
 - (b) each executive or principal officer of the association to imprisonment for a term of 6 months or a fine of ₦1,000,000 or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 21 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 22: Amendment of Section 82: Symbols of political parties.

- (1) The Commission shall keep a register of symbols and names for use at elections.
- (2) The Commission shall register the symbol and name of a political party if it is satisfied that —
 - (a) no other symbol and name of the same design is registered.
 - (b) the symbol and name is distinctive from any other symbol and name already registered.
- (3) The Commission shall remove a symbol or name from the register of symbols and names if the —
 - (c) political party in whose name it is registered requests the removal; or
 - (d) Commission is of the opinion that the political party in whose name the symbol is registered has ceased to exist or to use the symbol and names (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 22 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 23: Amendment of Section 85: Notice of convention, congress, etc.

- (1) Every registered political party shall give the Commission at least 21 days' notice of any convention, congress, conference or meeting convened for the purpose of "merger and fusion and" electing members of its executive committees, other governing bodies or nominating candidates for any of the elective offices specified under this Bill.
- (2) The Commission may with or without prior notice to the political party in question and attend any convention, congress, conference or meeting which is convened by a political party for the purpose of:

- (a) electing members of its executive committees or other governing bodies;
 - (b) nominating candidates for an election at any level;
 - (c) approving a merger with any other registered political party.
- (3) The election of members of the executive committee or other governing body of a political party, including the election to fill a vacant position in any of the aforesaid bodies, shall be conducted in a democratic manner and allowing for all members of the party or duly elected delegates to vote in support of a candidate of their choice.
- (4) Notice of any congress, conference or meeting for the purpose of nominating candidates for Area Council elections shall be given to the Commission at least 21 days before such congress, conference or meeting (*Hon. Aishatu Jirril Dukka — Dukka/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 23 sends part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 24: Amendment of Section 87: Nomination of candidates by parties.

- (1) A political party seeking to nominate candidates for elections under this Bill shall hold direct or indirect primaries for aspirants to all elective positions.
- (2) A political party shall not impose nomination qualification or disqualification criteria, measures, or conditions on any aspirant or candidate for any election in its constitution, guidelines, or rules for nomination of candidates for elections, except as prescribed under sections 65, 66, 106, 107, 131, 137, 177 and 187 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (3) For the purpose of nomination of candidates for election, the total fees, charges, dues and any payment howsoever named imposed by a political party on an aspirant or candidate shall not exceed:
 - (a) ₦150,000 for a Ward Councillorship aspirant in the FCT;
 - (b) ₦250,000 for an Area Council Chairmanship aspirant in the FCT;
 - (c) ₦500,000 for a House of Assembly aspirant;
 - (d) ₦1,000,000 for a House of Representatives aspirant;
 - (e) ₦2,000,000 for a Senatorial aspirant;
 - (f) ₦5,000,000 for a Governorship aspirant; and
 - (g) ₦10,000,000 for a Presidential aspirant.
- (4) Any requirement, criterion, measures, or condition for the nomination of candidates for elections outside the provisions of subsections (2) or (3) shall be invalid.
- (5) Every political party shall publish the venues, dates, times, guidelines, procedures and other relevant information of its primaries, conventions or any event conveyed for the purpose of nominating candidates for the party in at least two national newspapers and, at least, ten days before the date of the event to nominate candidates for the party.

- (6) A political party that adopts the system of direct primaries for the nomination of its candidate for an election shall ensure that all aspirants are given equal opportunity of being voted for by registered members of the party and comply with the following procedure —
- (a) in the case of nominations to the position of presidential candidate in a presidential election, a political party shall, where it intends to sponsor a candidate —
- (i) conduct direct primaries in the registration areas in the 36 States of the Federation and the FCT where all registered members of the party are eligible to vote and may freely vote for any Presidential aspirant of their choice.
 - (ii) declare the presidential aspirant with the highest number of valid votes cast during the primaries across the 36 States of the Federation and the FCT as the winner of the presidential primaries.
 - (iii) hold a National Convention where it shall present the winner of the primaries to the public as the presidential candidate of the party and the venue of the National Convention shall be determined by the political party, and
 - (iv) forward the name of the winner of the presidential primaries to the Commission as the presidential candidate of the party in the presidential election;
- (b) in the case of nomination to the position of Governorship candidate in a Governorship election in a State, a political party shall, where it intends to sponsor a candidate —
- (i) conduct direct primaries in the registration areas in each Local Government Area in the particular State where all registered members of the party in the State are eligible to vote and may freely vote for any Governorship aspirant of their choice.
 - (ii) declare the governorship aspirant with the highest number of valid votes cast in all Local Government Areas in the particular State as the winner of the governorship primaries in the State.
 - (iii) hold a State Congress where it shall present the winner of the governorship primaries to the public as the governorship candidate of the party in the governorship election and the venue of the State Congress shall be determined by the political party, and
 - (iv) forward the name of the winner of the primaries to the Commission as the governorship candidate of the party in the election for the State;
- (c) in the case of nominations to the position of Senatorial candidate, House of Representatives candidate and State House of Assembly candidate for a Senatorial District, a Federal Constituency and a State House Constituency respectively, a political party shall, where

it intends to sponsor candidates in elections for these elective positions —

- (i) conduct direct primaries in the registration areas in each Local Government Area in the Senatorial District where all registered members of the party in the Senatorial District are eligible to vote and may freely vote for any Senatorial aspirant of their choice.
 - (ii) conduct direct primaries in the registration areas in each Local Government Area in the Federal Constituency where all registered members of the party in the Federal Constituency are eligible to vote and may freely vote for any House of Representatives aspirant of their choice.
 - (iii) conduct direct primaries in the registration areas in each Local Government Area in the State Assembly Constituency where all registered members of the party in the State Assembly Constituency are eligible to vote and may freely vote for any State House of Assembly aspirant of their choice.
 - (iv) subject to subparagraph (i), declare the Senatorial aspirant with the highest number of valid votes cast in all Local Government Areas in the particular Senatorial District as the winner of the primaries in the Senatorial District and forward the name of the winner to the Commission as the Senatorial candidate of the party in the election for the Senatorial District.
 - (v) subject to subparagraph (ii), declare the House of Representatives aspirant with the highest number of votes in all Local Government Areas in the Federal Constituency as the winner of the primaries in the Federal Constituency and forward the name of the winner to the Commission as the House of Representatives candidate of the party in the election for the Federal Constituency, and
 - (vi) subject to subparagraph (iii), declare the State House of Assembly Aspirant with the highest number of votes in all Local Government Areas in the House of Assembly Constituency as the winner of the primaries in the House of Assembly Constituency and forward the name of the winner to the Commission as the State House of Assembly Candidate of the party in the election for the State Assembly Constituency;
- (c) in the case of the position of a Chairmanship candidate of an Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory, a political party shall, where it intends to sponsor a candidate —
- (i) conduct direct primaries in the registration areas in the Area Council, where all registered members of the party in the Area Council are eligible to vote and may vote for any chairmanship aspirant of their choice;

- (ii) declare the chairmanship aspirant with the highest number of votes in all registration areas in the Area Council as the winner of the chairmanship primaries in the Area Council and forward the name of the winner of the chairmanship primaries to the Commission as the chairmanship candidate of the party in the election for the Area Council.
- (7) A political party that adopts the system of indirect primaries for the nomination of its candidates for election shall conduct a delegates election in all registration areas in the constituency where the election is to be held and all registered members of the party in that registration area are eligible to vote for any contestant who presents himself to be a delegate of the party:
- (8) A political party leader or official who is not elected in his or her registration area as a delegate of his or her party under subsection (7) shall not be a voting delegate of the party and shall not vote in his party's indirect primaries but may perform his functions in a neutral manner as may be prescribed in his party's constitution in relation to indirect primaries:
- Provided that in performing his functions as a party leader or official in relation to indirect primaries, the party leader or official shall not conduct himself in any manner whatsoever to impact the election in favour of any aspirant in the indirect primaries.
- (9) A party leader or official who contravenes the provisions of subsection (8) of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of one year or a fine of ₦1,000,000.
- (10) All National, State, Local Government Area or Area Council and Ward executives of a party and elected officials of government mentioned in this section who are members of the party are automatic or super delegates who are eligible to vote in their party's indirect primaries —
- (a) President and former Presidents;
 - (b) Vice President and former Vice Presidents;
 - (c) Governors and former Governors;
 - (d) Deputy Governors and former Deputy Governors;
 - (e) Senators and former Senators;
 - (f) Members of the House of Representatives and former Members of the House of Representatives;
 - (g) Members of State Houses of Assembly;
 - (h) Chairmen of Local Government Councils; and
 - (i) Councilors of Wards;

Provided that the party shall have the power to determine in its constitution or nomination guidelines and manuals, the particular indirect primaries or election to particular elective offices that automatic or super delegates shall vote.

- (11) A political party that adopts the system of indirect primaries for the choice of its candidate may outline further guidelines, rules and procedures to guarantee free, fair, and credible election of delegates to vote at a convention or congress of the party, but such further guidelines, rules and procedures shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill.
- (12) The Primaries of political parties shall follow the following sequence —
 - (a) National Assembly;
 - (b) State Houses of Assembly;
 - (c) Governorship; and
 - (d) Presidential.
- (13) The dates for the primaries shall not be earlier than 150 days and not later than 90 days before the date of elections to the offices.
- (14) Any official of the Commission who issues, endorses or certifies a false report or result in respect of a delegates election or primaries of a political party commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of one year or a fine of ₦1,000,000 or both.
- (15) A political party that adopts the system of indirect primaries for the nomination of its candidates for election shall ensure that all aspirants are given equal opportunity of being voted for by delegates of the party who shall be registered members of the party.
- (16) Where a political party adopts the system of indirect primaries for the nomination of its candidates for elections, the party shall adopt the following procedure —
 - (a) in the case of nominations to the position of presidential candidate, a political party shall, where it intends to sponsor a candidate, —
 - (i) hold a special presidential convention at a designated centre in the Federal Capital Territory or any other place within the Federation and on a date agreed by the National Executive Committee of the party where delegates of the party shall vote for each of the presidential aspirants of the party, and
 - (ii) the presidential aspirant with the highest number of votes at the end of voting shall be declared the winner of the Presidential primaries of the political party and the aspirant's name shall be forwarded to the Commission as the presidential candidate of the party;
 - (b) in the case of nomination to the position of Governorship candidate, a political party shall, where it intends to sponsor candidates —
 - (i) hold a special congress at a designated centre in the State Capital or any other place within the State and on a date agreed by the party where delegates of the party shall vote for each of the governorship aspirant of the party, and

- (ii) the governorship aspirant with the highest number of votes at the end of voting shall be declared the winner of the governorship primaries of the party and the party shall forward the aspirant's name to the Commission as the candidate of the party, for the particular State;
- (c) in the case of nomination to the position of a candidate to the Senate, House of Representatives and State House of Assembly, a political party shall, where it intends to sponsor candidates —
 - (i) hold special congresses in the Senatorial District, Federal Constituency and the State Assembly Constituency respectively in designated centres and on a date or dates agreed by the party where delegates of the party shall vote for each of the Senatorial, House of Representatives and House of Assembly Aspirants of the party, and
 - (ii) the Senatorial, House of Representatives and House of Assembly Aspirant with the highest number of votes at the end of voting shall be declared the winner of the primaries of the party for Senatorial District, Federal Constituency and the State Assembly Constituency respectively and the aspirant's names shall be forwarded to the Commission as the Senatorial, House of Representatives and House of Assembly candidates of the party, as the case may be; and
- (d) in the case of the position of a chairmanship candidate of an Area Council, a political party shall, where it intends to sponsor candidates —
 - (i) hold special congresses in the Area Councils, with delegates voting for each of the aspirants at designated centres on a specified date, and
 - (ii) the aspirant with the highest number of votes at the end of voting shall be declared the winner of the primaries of the party and the aspirant's name shall be forwarded to the Commission as the candidate of the party.
- (17) In the case of a councillorship candidate, the procedure for the nomination of the candidate shall be by direct primaries in the ward and the name of the candidate with the highest number of votes shall be submitted to the Commission as the candidate of the party.
- (18) Where there is only one aspirant for an elective position in a party that has adopted the direct system of primaries, such an aspirant is deemed to be unchallenged and the party shall forward the name of the aspirant to the Commission as the candidate of the party.
- (19) Where there is only one aspirant for any of the elective positions mentioned in subsection (16) (a) - (d), the party shall convene a special convention or congress, as the case may be, at a designated centre in the particular constituency on a specified date to confirm that aspirant as the candidate of the party and the party shall forward the name of the aspirant to the Commission as the candidate of the party.

- (20) A political appointee at any level of government shall not be an automatic or super delegate at the convention or congress of any political party for the purpose of nomination of candidates for any election under the indirect primaries system, except where such a political appointee is also an officer of a political party or otherwise elected as a delegate under subsection (7).
- (21) Nothing in this section shall prevent a political party from organizing staggered primaries.
- (22) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Bill or rules of a political party, an aspirant who complains that any of the provisions of this Bill or rules of a political party has not been complied with in the nomination of a candidate of a political party for election, may apply to the Federal High Court or the High Court of a State or the FCT for redress.
- (23) Nothing in this section shall empower the Courts to stop the holding of primaries or general election or the processes under this Bill pending the determination of the suit (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 24 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 25: Amendment of Section 91: Limitation on election expenses.

- (1) Election expenses shall not exceed the sum stipulated in Subsections (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) and (7).
- (2) The maximum election expenses to be incurred by a candidate at a presidential election shall not exceed ₦5,000,000,000.00.
- (3) The maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate in respect of governorship election shall not exceed ₦1,000,000,000.00.
- (4) The maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a Candidate in respect of Senatorial and House of Representatives seat shall not exceed ₦250,000,000.00 and ₦100,000,000.00 respectively.
- (5) In the case of State Assembly election, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate shall not exceed ₦30,000,000.00.
- (6) In the case of a chairmanship election to an Area Council, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate shall not exceed ₦30,000,000.00.
- (7) In the case of Councillorship election to an area Council, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate shall not exceed ₦5,000,000.00.
- (8) In determining the total expenditure incurred in relation to the candidature of any person at any election no account shall be taken of:
 - (a) any deposit made by the candidate on his/her nomination in compliance with the law;
 - (b) any expenditure incurred before the notification of the date fixed for the election with respect to services rendered or material supplied before such notification;

- (c) Political party expenses in respect of the candidate standing for a particular election.
- (9) No individual or other entity shall donate to a candidate more than ₦10,000,000.00.
- (10) A candidate who knowingly acts in contravention of this section, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of 1% of the amount permitted as the limit of campaign expenditure under this Bill or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 25 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 26: Amendment of Section 99: Limitation on political broadcast and campaign by political parties.

- (1) For the purpose of this Bill, the period of campaigning in public by every political party shall commence 150 days before polling day and end 24 hours prior to that day (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 26 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 27: Amendment of Section 100: Campaign for election.

- (1) A candidate and his party shall campaign for the elections in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be determined by the Commission.
- (2) State apparatus including the media shall not be employed to the advantage or disadvantage of any political party or candidate at any election.
- (3) Media time shall be allocated equally among the political parties or candidates at similar hours of the day.
- (4) At any public electronic media, equal airtime shall be allotted to all political parties or candidates during prime times at similar hours each day, subject to the payment of appropriate fees.
- (5) At any public print media, equal coverage and conspicuity shall be allotted to all political parties.
- (6) Any person who contravenes subsections (3) and (4) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, in a case of —
 - (a) a public media, to a fine of ₦2,000,000.00 in the first instance and to a fine of ₦5,000,000.00 for subsequent conviction; and
 - (b) principal officers and other officers of the media house to a fine of ₦2,000,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term of 12 months (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 27 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 28: Amendment of Section 112: Death of Chairman before oath of office.

- (1) If a person duly elected as Chairman dies before taking and subscribing to the Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office, the person elected with him as Vice-Chairman shall be sworn in as Chairman who shall then nominate and, with the approval of the majority of members of the Area Legislative Council appoint a new Vice-Chairman
- (2) Where the Vice Chairman is appointed from among the Councilors as the new Vice-Chairman, the Commission shall conduct a bye-election to fill the vacant seat created in the ward from which the new Vice-Chairman has been appointed.
- (3) Where the persons duly elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of an Area Council die before taking and subscribing the oath of allegiance and oath of office during which period the Area Council has not been inaugurated the Commission shall within 21 days conduct an election to fill the vacancies.
- (4) If after the commencement of poll and before the announcement of the final result and declaration of a winner, a leading candidate whose votes affects the final result dies —
 - (a) the Commission shall, being satisfied of the fact of the death, suspend the election for a period not exceeding 14 days;
 - (b) the political party whose candidate died may, if it intends to continue to participate in the election, conduct a fresh primary within 7 days of the death of its candidate and submit a new candidate to the Commission to replace the dead candidate; and
 - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b), the Commission shall continue with the election, announce the final result and declare a winner (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 28 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 29: Amendment of Section 120: Offences in relation to registration, etc.

- (d) Section 120 (d) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting ₦1,000,000.00 and substituting it with ₦2,000,000.00 and by deleting 12 months and substituting it with 2 years.

Insertion of new subparagraph (e):

- (e) any person who procures, deals, obtains, or possesses any fake voters' card, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum of 5 years imprisonment with an option of fine (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Ekku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 30: Amendment of Section 138: Grounds of petition.

- (1) An election may be questioned on grounds that —
 - (c) a person whose election is questioned was, at the time of the election, not qualified to contest the election; or

- (b) the election was invalid by reason of corrupt practices or non-compliance with the provisions of this Bill, published manuals, guidelines, regulations and or procedures issued by the Commission for the election.
 - (c) that the respondent was not duly elected by majority of lawful votes cast at the election; or
 - (d) subject to the provisions of this Bill, the petitioner or its candidate was validly nominated but unlawfully excluded from the election.
- (2) An act or omission which may be contrary to an instruction or directive of the Commission or of an officer appointed for the purpose of the election but which is not contrary to the provisions of this Bill and published manuals, guidelines, regulations or procedures issued by the Commission for the conduct of the election shall not of itself be a ground for questioning the election.
- (3) With respect to subsection (1) (a), a person is deemed to be qualified for an elective office and his election shall not be questioned on grounds of qualification if, with respect to the particular election in question, he meets the applicable requirements of sections 65, 106, 131 or 177 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and he is not, as may be applicable, in breach of sections 66, 107, 137 or 182 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 31: Amendment of Section 139: Certain defects not to invalidate elections.

- (1) An Election shall not to be invalidated by reason of non-compliance with the provisions of this Bill and published manuals, guidelines, regulations, procedures or directives issued by the Commission for the conduct of the election, if it appears to the Election Tribunal or Court that the election was conducted substantially in accordance with the principles of this Bill and that the non-compliance did not affect substantially the result of the election (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 32: Amendment of Section 140: Nullification of election by Tribunal or Court.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, if the Tribunal or the Court as the case may be, determines that a candidate who was returned as elected was not validly elected on any ground, the Tribunal or the Court shall nullify the election.
- (2) Where an election tribunal or court nullifies an election on the ground that the person who obtained the highest votes at the election was not qualified to contest the election, the election tribunal or court shall not declare the person with the second highest votes as elected, but shall order a fresh election.
- (3) If the Tribunal or the Court determines that a candidate who was returned as elected was not validly elected on the ground that he did not score the majority of valid votes cast at the election, the Election Tribunal or the Court, as the case may be, shall declare as elected the candidate who scored

the highest number of valid votes cast at the election and satisfied the requirements of the Constitution and this Bill.

- (4) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, if at the point of display or distribution of ballot papers by the Commission, a candidate or his agent discovers that his name or the name or logo of his party is omitted, a candidate or his agent shall notify the Commission and the Commission shall —
- (a) postpone the election to rectify the omission; and
 - (b) appoint another date to conduct the election, not later than 90 days.
 - (c) where the election is postponed due to omission of a political party's name or logo, the Commission's Officer responsible for such printing of party names or logos commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦2,000,000.00 or imprisonment for 2 years or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 33: Amendment of Section 143: Person elected to remain in office pending determination of appeal.

- (1) Where the nomination of an elected candidate is nullified by the Court and notice of appeal against the decision is given within the stipulated period for appeal, the elected candidate shall notwithstanding the contrary decision of the court remain in office pending the determination of the appeal.
- (2) Where the Appellate court determines that a candidate was not validly nominated, the elected candidate shall, notwithstanding the contrary decision of the Court, remain in office within the period for which an appeal may be filed and shall not be sanctioned for the benefits he derived while in office pursuant to this section, provided that where the Appellate Court in this instance is the Supreme Court, the candidate shall cease to hold that office.
- (3) Where the Election Tribunal or the Court, as the case may be, determines that a candidate returned as elected was not validly elected, then if notice of appeal against that decision is given within twenty-one days from the date of the decision, the candidate returned as elected shall, notwithstanding the contrary decision of the Election Tribunal or the Court, remain in office pending the determination of the appeal.
- (4) Where the Election Tribunal or the Court, as the case may be, determines that a candidate returned as elected was not validly elected, the candidate returned as elected shall, notwithstanding the contrary decision of the Election Tribunal or the Court, remain in office pending the expiration of the period of twenty-one days within which an appeal may be brought.
- (5) Where the election is nullified by the Court and notice of appeal against the decision is given within the stipulated period for appeal, the elected candidate shall, notwithstanding the contrary decision of the Court remain in office and enjoy all the benefits that accrued to the office pending the determination of the appeal and shall not be sanctioned for the benefits derived while in office (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 34: Amendment of Section 151: Inspection of documents.

- (1) An order for an inspection of a polling document or an inspection of a document or any other packet in the custody of the Chief National Electoral Commissioner or any other officer of the Commission may be made by the election tribunal or the court if it is satisfied that the inspection is required for the purpose of instituting, maintaining or defending an election petition.
- (2) A document other than a document referred to in subsection (1) of this section relating to an election and which is retained by the Chief National Electoral Commissioner or any other officer of the Commission in accordance with this section shall be open for inspection on an order made by the Election Tribunal or a Court in exercise of its powers to compel the production of documents in legal proceedings, but shall not otherwise be open for inspection.

Insertion of new Subsection (3):

- (3) Where there is a breach of an order of a court or tribunal directed at the Commission particularly, order to produce, inspect or take copies of electoral materials, such disobedience shall attract court sanctions, which shall include the committal by the Tribunal or Court of the Commission's official to whom the order is directed, to a conviction of imprisonment for a term of at least 2 years, or fine of not less than ₦10,000,000.00 or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 35: Amendment of Section 156: Interpretation.

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Appointment" includes appointment to an office, confirmation of appointment, promotion or transfer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Area Council" means Area Councils recognized and existing by virtue of section 3 (6) of the Constitution and as set out in Part I and Part II of the First Schedule thereof and any additional Area Council provided by an Act of the National Assembly in accordance with the Provisions of the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Association" means a body of persons (corporate or otherwise) who agree to act together for any common purpose and includes an association formed for any ethnic, social, cultural, occupational or religious purpose (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Attorney-General of the Federation" means the Chief Law Officer of the Federation (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Attorney-General of the Federation" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Authority" includes government or government agency and corporate bodies (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Campaigning in public" referred to in section 99 means the campaign that commences after the publication of the notice of election by the commission pursuant to section 30 of this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"candidate" means a person who has secured the nomination of a political party to contest an election for any elective office (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Chief Electoral Commissioner" means the Chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Chief Electoral Commissioner" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Civil Servant" means a person employed in the civil service of the Federation or of a State or Local Government as contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as (amended) (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Clerk" means the Clerk of the National Assembly, Clerk of the State House of Assembly, and Clerk of the Legislative House of the Local Government/Area Council or any person acting in that capacity (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Commission" means the Independent National Electoral Commission established by the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Constitution" means the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Conviction" means a pronouncement by a Court or Tribunal that a person is guilty of an offence under this Bill or under the provisions of the Constitution whether or not any punishment is imposed on the person as a result of the conviction. Conviction further includes admission by a person in writing, verbally, or by conduct that he is guilty, or have committed or aided and abetted the commission of the offence or crime concerned (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Electronic format" refers to the electronic version of the Register of Voters or National Electronic Register of Election Results, as the case may be, created, recorded, transmitted or stored in digital form or in other intangible forms by electronic, magnetic or optical means, or by any other means that has capabilities for creation, recording, transmission or storage similar to those means and which may be converted to or reproduced in a paper document (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"fusion" means a process by which a political party fuses with another political party by dropping its name and symbol and become subsumed in another political party, thereby cease to exist (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"The Conduct" referred to in this subsection is, for instance, where a person reimburses the sums of money or any parts thereof obtained through corrupt practice in order to avoid prosecution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Decision", means in relation to court or tribunal, any determination of that court or tribunal and includes a judgment, decree, conviction, sentence, order or recommendation (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Election" means any election held under this Bill and includes a referendum (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Electoral Officer" means a staff of the Commission who is the head of the Commission's office at a Local Government Area or Area Council level (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Federation" means the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Function" includes power and duty (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"General Election" means an election held in the Federation at large which may be at all levels, and at regular intervals to select officers to serve after the expiration of the full terms of their predecessors (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Government" includes the Government of the Federation, of a State or of a Local Government Area or Area Council, or any person or organ exercising power or authority on its behalf (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"House" or "Legislative House" means the Senate, House of Representatives, House of Assembly of a State and includes the Legislative House of a Local Government Area or Area Council (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "House" or Legislative House" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Leader of an association" means every person holding an executive position in that association, including in particular, the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of the association and every member of its committee of management, however described (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Leader of an association" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Leader of a political party" means every person holding an executive position in that political party, including in particular, the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of the political party and every member of its committee of management, however described (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Leader of a political party" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Legal incapacity" means a person disqualified under the Constitution or the present Act or any other Law, Rules and Regulations from registering as a voter or from contesting elections (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Local Government" means Local Government recognized and existing by virtue of section 3 (6) of the Constitution and set out in Parts I and II of the First Schedule thereof and any additional Local Government provided for by an Act of the National Assembly in accordance with section 8 (5) of the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"National Assembly" means the Senate and the House of Representatives (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"offensive weapon or missile" includes any cannon, gun, rifle, carbine, revolver, pistol or any other firearm, bow and arrow, spear, cutlass, knife, dagger, axe, cudgel, or any other thing capable of being used as an offensive weapon or missile, including teargas, acid, and any inflammable substance capable of injuring a person (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "offensive weapon missile" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Office" or "Public Office" means any of the offices the occupation to which is by election or appointment under this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Office" or "Public Office" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Petition" means an election petition under this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Polling Agent" means a person representing a political party or independent candidate at the polling unit, ward, Local Government, Federal constituency, Senatorial district, State or Federal collation centres (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Polling unit" means the place, enclosure, booth, shade or house at which voting takes place under this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Political party" includes any association of persons whose activities includes canvassing for votes in support of a candidate for election under this Bill and registered by the Commission; "Power" includes function and duty (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Presiding Officer" means a person appointed by the Commission to be in charge of the conduct of election in a polling unit or polling station, and this shall include persons who may be under different titles but who are charged by the Commission with the same responsibilities at a polling unit or polling station as a Presiding Officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"published manuals, guidelines, regulations, procedures or directives issued by the Commission for the conduct of the election" means that which is made public by the Commission at least seven days before the date of general elections (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "published manuals, guidelines, regulations, procedures or directives issued by the Commission for the conduct of the election" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Registrar" includes Chief Registrar, Deputy Chief Registrar and Registrar of other grades of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Federal High Court and the High Court of a State (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Registration Officer" includes supervisory assistant registration officer and assistant registration officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Resident Electoral Commissioner" means the Commissioner deployed for the time being to a State (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Resident Electoral Commissioner" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Return" means the declaration by a Returning Officer of a candidate in an election under this Bill as being the winner of that election (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Returning Officer" means a person appointed by the Commission to be in charge of the conduct of election in a constituency, and this includes persons who may be under different titles but who are charged by the Commission with the same responsibilities in a constituency as a Returning Officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"School Certificate" has the meaning as defined in the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Secret Society" has the meaning as defined in the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"State" when used otherwise than in reference to one of the component parts of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall include government of a State (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"State Commission" means State Independent Electoral Commission established by section 197 of the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

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

"Ward Collation Officer" means Registration Area Collation Officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Ward Collation Officer" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 36: Amendment of Section 157: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the Electoral Act, No. 6, 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB.1544) (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 37: Amendment of the Schedule: First Schedule.

The First schedule to the Principal Act is amended —

Insert immediately after paragraph 41 (1), a new paragraph “41 (1) (A)” —

A Petitioner:

“41. (1) (A) It is not necessary for a petitioner who alleges non-compliance with the provisions of this Bill, the published manuals, guidelines, regulations, procedures or directives issued by the Commission for the conduct of elections to call oral evidence if originals or certified true copies of electoral documents or materials used by the Commission to conduct the election in the polling unit where the non-compliance is alleged are listed in the petition and tendered at the trial of the petition by the petitioner in proof of the non-compliance complained of; and

Documentary Evidence:

Substitute Subparagraph 46 (4), with a new subparagraph “46 (4)” —
“Documentary evidence shall be put in and may be read or taken as read by consent, such documentary evidence shall be deemed demonstrated in open court and the parties in the petition shall be entitled to address and urge argument on the content of the document, and the tribunal or court shall scrutinize or investigate the content of the documents as part of the process of ascribing probative value to the documents or otherwise (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the Electoral Act, No. 6, 2010 to make provisions for the restriction of the qualification for elective office to relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended); use of Card Readers and other technological devices in elections and Political Party Primaries, to provide a time line for the submission of list of candidates, criteria for substitution of candidates, limit of campaign expenses, and address the omission of names of candidates or logo of political parties (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act, No. 6, 2010 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB.1544) (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Provisions of the Electoral Act, No. 6 of 2010; and for Related Matters (HB. 1544) and approved Clauses 1 - 37, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

18. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till 3.10 p.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.05 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

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