



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 18 July, 2019

1. The House met at 11.37 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 Wednesday, 17 July, 2019.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**

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

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of *Members of the Legislative Council of Ikorodu Local Government Area, Lagos State.*

(b) **Ad-hoc Committee to Determine why the Warri, Port Harcourt, Onne, Calabar and Onitsha Inland Ports Complexes are not being put to Maximum Use (HR. 30/07/2019):**

Mr Speaker announced the Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Baba Yusuf Yakub	—	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Makama Misau Ibrahim	—	Member
(3)	Hon. Onuh Blessing Onyeche	—	Member
(4)	Hon. Haruna Maitala	—	Member
(5)	Hon. Victor Mela	—	Member
(6)	Hon. Nuhu Yakubu Danja	—	Member
(7)	Hon. Aliyu Ibrahim Almustapha	—	Member
(8)	Hon. Alex Egbona	—	Member
(9)	Hon. Akiolu Moshood Kayode	—	Member
(10)	Hon. Ifeanyi Ibezi	—	Member
(11)	Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo	—	Member
(12)	Hon. Olayide Adewale Akinremi	—	Member
(13)	Hon. Kalu Benjamin Okezie	—	Member
(14)	Hon. Sunny Goli Israel	—	Member

4. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Daura Emirate Development Forum, Abuja branch, on the continued occupation of the facilities of Daura Teachers' College by the Federal Government College, Daura, Katsina State, was presented and laid by Hon. Fatuhu Mohammed (*Daura Mai'adua Sandamu Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Solomon Adaelu (*Obinza Osistoma Ugunagbo Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) 1,227 graduates of University of Port Harcourt 2015-2016 Academic Session, on the alleged withholding of their degree certificates and refusal to mobilise them for the National Youth Service Corps by the Vice Chancellor of the University; and
 - (b) Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Nigeria, praying the House to prevail on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) not to conduct future elections on Saturdays being their Worship days to enable them exercise their constitutional rights to vote.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions (when constituted).

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

- (i) ***Impending Nationwide Strike by the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and Non Academic Staff Union (NASU):***

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku (*Dukku Nafada 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.

Impending Nationwide Strike by the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and Non Academic Staff Union (NASU):

The House:

Notes that the Joint Action Committee of the non teaching staff in the universities has directed its branches to mobilise its members for a nationwide protest starting on Monday, 15 July, 2019 as a warning for a proposed strike action;

Also notes that the action by the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions is as a result of the Federal Government's refusal to recall the sacked staff of the institutions and the alleged discriminatory attitude of government against non teaching staff;

Concerned that SSANU and NASU also decried the exclusion of their members as officers of the National University Pension Company (NUPENCO);

Also concerned with the alleged preferential treatment extended to the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) by the Federal Government in the recent allocation of money by the Federal Ministry of Education as approved by the Director of Tertiary Education, seeking to allocate 80% of the money to ASUU and only 20% to the non teaching staff unions;

Observes that the way and manner the money is being allocated is contrary to any known accounting formula and international best practice;

Worried that the action of the non teaching staff, if not addressed on time, will result into crippling academic activities as well as shutting down public universities in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to release the allowance of non teaching staff for the period of 2009 to 2016 in accordance with the MOUs;
- (ii) also call on the Federal Government to audit the allowances to determine the beneficiaries so far and the outstanding sum;
- (iii) also call on the Federal Government to immediately set up a Technical Committee to address the alleged discrimination of the non teaching staff over ASUU; and
- (iv) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface between the Federal Government and the non teaching staff to ensure compliance of Resolutions (i), (ii) and (iii) above (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:

“Appeal to both Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non Academic Staff Union to suspend all forms of demonstration and pending strike to enable the House wade-in immediately” (Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Joint Action Committee of the non teaching staff in the universities has directed its branches to mobilise its members for a nationwide protest starting on Monday, 15 July, 2019 as a warning for a proposed strike action;

Also noted that the action by the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions is as a result of the Federal Government's refusal to recall the sacked staff of the institutions and the alleged discriminatory attitude of government against non teaching staff;

Concerned that SSANU and NASU also decried exclusion of their member as officers of the National University Pension Company (NUPENCO);

Also concerned with the alleged preferential treatment extended to the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) by the Federal Government in the recent allocation of money by the Federal Ministry of Education as approved by the Director of Tertiary Education, seeking to allocate 80% of the money to ASUU and only 20% to the non teaching staff unions;

Observed that the way and manner the money is being allocated is contrary to any known accounting formula and international best practice;

Worried that the action of the non teaching staff, if not addressed on time, will result into crippling academic activities as well as shutting down public universities in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to:
 - (a) release the allowance of non teaching staff for the period of 2009 to 2016 in accordance with the MOUs;
 - (b) audit the allowances to determine the beneficiaries so far and the outstanding sum;
 - (c) immediately set up a Technical Committee to address the alleged discrimination of the non teaching staff over ASUU;
 - (ii) appeal to both Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non Academic Staff Union to suspend all forms of demonstration and pending strike to enable the House wade-in immediately; and
 - (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface between the Federal Government and the non teaching staff to ensure compliance of Resolution (i) above (HR. 36/07/2019).
- (ii) ***The Incessant Attacks and Killings of Nigerians in South Africa and Apparent Lack of Required Response from Both Governments to stop Same:***
 Hon. Asadu Patrick Oziokoja (Nsukka/Igboeze South 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.

The Incessant Attacks and Killings of Nigerians in South Africa and Apparent Lack of Required Response from Both Governments to stop Same:

The House.

Notes with deep concern the incessant killings of innocent Nigerians on a daily basis in South Africa;

Also notes with sorrow the death by strangulation of one Dr Elizabeth Okunribido Njoku, a Deputy Director-General of Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIIN) who was found dead in a hotel room in Johannesburg, South Africa on 13 June, 2019.

Aware that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government;

Distressed by the lack of commensurate response from both the Government of South Africa and the Federal Government of Nigeria to stop this ugly situation.

Worried that this xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa assumed alarming proportion notwithstanding the diligent efforts and intervention of the 8th Assembly which delegation was ably led by the incumbent Speaker;

Further notes that while accusations of crime have been ascribed to some Nigerians living in South Africa, the legal system of South Africa should handle all suspicions of crime instead of encouraging jungle justice;

Concerned by the trend of killings of innocent Nigerians in South Africa and destruction of their properties based on flimsy excuses such as financial transactions between Nigerians and their South African counterparts or amorous relationship and even the outcome of football matches;

Alarmed that if urgent security measures are not put in place to protect Nigerians in that country, the citizens may be forced to resort to self defence with obvious consequences of breakdown of law and order;

Resolves to:

- (i) constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee on the security and welfare of Nigerians living in hostile countries, including South Africa, Libya, etc.;
- (ii) observe a minute silence in honour of late Dr Elizabeth Obianuju Ndubisi;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to liaise with the Government of South Africa to set up a bilateral commission of enquiry to unravel the cause of this reported attacks and killings of Nigerians in South Africa;
- (iv) also urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review all bilateral agreements between Nigeria and South Africa;
- (v) further urge the Federal Government to carry out an overhaul of the diplomatic relations with a view to protecting Nigerians outside the country, especially in South Africa; and
- (vi) commend Nigerians in South Africa for their forbearance in the face of the provocations against them by South Africa, inspite of the supports Nigerians gave to that country during the apartheid regime (*Hon. Patrick Asadu — Nsukka/Igboeze South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House;

Noted with deep concern the incessant killings of innocent Nigerians on a daily basis in South Africa by suspected bandits;

Also noted with sorrow the death by strangulation of one Dr Elizabeth Obianuju Ndubisi, a Deputy Director-General of Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIIN) who was found dead in a hotel room in Johannesburg, South Africa on 13 June, 2019;

Aware that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government;

Distressed by the lack of commensurate response from both the Government of South Africa and the Federal Government of Nigeria to stop this ugly situation;

Worried that this xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa assumed alarming proportion notwithstanding the diligent efforts and intervention of the 8th Assembly which delegation was ably led by the incumbent Speaker;

Further noted that while accusations of crime have been ascribed to some Nigerians living in South Africa, the legal system of South Africa should handle all suspicions of crime instead of encouraging jungle justice;

Concerned by the trend of killings of innocent Nigerians in South Africa and destruction of their properties based on flimsy excuses such as financial transactions between Nigerians and their South African counterparts or amorous relationship and even the outcome of football matches;

Alarmed that if urgent security measures are not put in place to protect Nigerians in that country, the citizens may be forced to resort to self defence with obvious consequences of breakdown of law and order;

Resolved to:

- (i) constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee on the security and welfare of Nigerians living in hostile countries, including South Africa, Libya, etc.;
- (ii) observe a minute silence in honour of late Dr Elizabeth Obianuju Ndubisi;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to liaise with the Government of South Africa to set up a bilateral commission of enquiry to unravel the cause of this reported attacks and killings of Nigerians in South Africa;
- (iv) also urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review all bilateral agreements between Nigeria and South Africa;
- (v) further urge the Federal Government to carry out an overhaul of the diplomatic relations with a view to protecting Nigerians outside the country, especially in South Africa; and
- (vi) commend Nigerians in South Africa for their forbearance in the face of the provocations against them by South Africa, inspite of the supports Nigerians gave to that country during the apartheid regime (H.R. 37/07/2019).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

6. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Bill, 2019 (HB.171).
- (2) River Basins Development Authorities Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.172).
- (3) National Inland Waterways Authority Bill, 2019 (HB.173).

- (4) Nigerian Ports and Harbours Authority Bill, 2019 (H.B.174).
- (5) Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Identification Bill, 2019 (H.B.175).
- (6) Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.176).
- (7) National Council of Radiology and Radiation Medicine Establishment Bill, 2019 (H.B.177).
- (8) Federal University of Technology, Enugu (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.178).
- (9) Health Records Officers (Registration, etc.) Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.179).
- (10) Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (H.B. 180).
- (11) National Blood Service Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.181).
- (12) Federal Medical Centres (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.182).
- (13) Recovery of Public Property (Special Provisions) (Repeal) Bill, 2019 (H.B.183).
- (14) Federal Polytechnic, Zandi, Plateau State (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.184).
- (15) Federal University of Agriculture, Vom, Plateau State (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.185).
- (16) Foreign Service Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.186).
- (17) National Planning Process Bill, 2019 (H.B.187).
- (18) Entrepreneurship Development Bank of Nigeria Bill, 2019 (H.B.188).
- (19) Patents (Additional Rights) Bill, 2019 (H.B.189).
- (20) Unclaimed Dividends Trust Fund Bill, 2019 (H.B.190).
- (21) Sexual Offences Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.191).
- (22) National Fertilizer Bill, 2019 (H.B.192).
- (23) Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.193).
- (24) Assets Recovery Bill, 2019 (H.B.194).
- (25) Nigeria Police Academy (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.195).
- (26) Solid Minerals Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.196).
- (27) Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.198).
- (28) Nigerian Ports Authority Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.199).
- (29) Nigerian Postal Service Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.200).
- (30) Immigration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (H.B.201).
- (31) Good Samaritan Bill, 2019 (H.B. 202).

7. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigeria Metrological Agency Act, No. 9 of 2003 to grant the Nigeria Metrological Agency the sole Authority to Grant Approvals and Licenses for the Establishment of Metrological Stations; and for Related Matters (HB. 19) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigeria Metrological Agency Act, No. 9 of 2003 to grant the Nigeria Metrological Agency the sole Authority to Grant Approvals and Licenses for the Establishment of Metrological Stations; and for Related Matters (HB. 19) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu — Bende 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 Aviation (when constituted).

8. **Appointment of Special Advisers to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to the provisions of Section 151 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has power to appoint any person as a Special Adviser to assist him in the performance of his functions;

Also notes that the President, in a message on 9 July, 2019 to the House of Representatives requested for the approval of the House to appoint fifteen (15) Special Advisers;

Aware that Section 151 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 empowers the National Assembly to prescribe by law or resolution the number of such Advisers and their remuneration and allowances;

Also aware that Section 2, Part 1 (B) of the Certain Political, Public and Judicial Office Holders (Salaries and Allowances, etc.) (Amendment) Act, 2008 prescribes the remuneration and allowances of such Special Advisers;

Resolves to:

- (i) **approve** the Request of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to appoint fifteen (15) Special Advisers in accordance with the provisions of Section 151 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;
- (ii) **transmit** the Approval to the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for concurrence (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

9. **Need to Address the Worsening Plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and Returnees in Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Areas of Borno State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the increasing humanitarian crisis affecting the people of Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Federal Constituency of Borno State;

Also notes that the Boko Haram insurgency precipitated a massive humanitarian tragedy on a scale only comparable to the Nigerian civil war and arguably the worst of any man-made or natural disaster in Nigeria's history;

Further notes that the new returnees are largely from the bordering countries of Chad and Cameroon Republics;

Aware that most of the new returnees and the Internally Displaced Persons have suffered untold hardship getting the basic needs of livelihood like food, shelter and clothing;

Also Aware that most of the residents of Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Federal Constituency have gone through traumatic experiences which have affected their physical, psychological, emotional, mental, economic and social well-being;

Further aware that humanitarian development partners are reluctant in continuing to offer assistance to the displaced persons and returnees because of the deplorable state of road infrastructure in Maiduguri-Gamboru, Maiduguri-Bama-Banki and Gamboru-Rann and believes that if nothing is done to ameliorate the situation, the humanitarian crisis will further worsen with the onset of the rains which would create a major food shortage for the people;

Acknowledges the efforts made so far by the Borno State Government through support for the security agencies and provision of temporary shelter, foodstuff medications, clothing and other basic needs for the affected people;

Commends the Federal Government for setting up the North East Development Commission (NEDC);

Concerned that if nothing is done, the humanitarian crisis will be further worsened with the coming rains and create a major food shortage for the people;

Also Concerned that there is currently a total of 773,626 Internally Displaced Persons who have been forced out of their homes and living in shanties all over the constituency.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to immediately commence infrastructural works in Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Federal Constituency of Borno State to enable partners resume humanitarian services;
- (ii) also urge the North East Development Commission to seek avenues of strategic collaboration with the Development Partners in the North-East so that they will continue to provide humanitarian services to the people affected;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA to expeditiously provide relief materials for these new returnees and the Internally Displaced Persons;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), Refugees and Initiatives on the North East Zone, and North East Development Commission (when constituted) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Zainab Gimba — Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 38/07/2019).

Motion referred to the Committees on the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), Refugees and Initiatives on the North East Zone, and North East Development Commission (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

10. **Need to Revamp the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) Abak Sub-Station, Oruk Anam in Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency, Akwa Ibom State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the agriculture sector presents Nigeria with the opportunity to diversify her economy and break the over dependence on oil as the major source of revenue and agriculture also has the potential to create jobs for both the youths and other Nigerians, increase wealth and overall revenue base of the nation;

Also notes the economic history of Nigeria which reveals that in the 1960s, (prior to the discovery of crude oil) agriculture sustained the economy as shown by the groundnut pyramids in the North, the cocoa plantations in the West and the oil palm plantations in the East;

Aware that in 1932, Nigeria established the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research (WIFOR) now known as the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) with the main station in Edo State and substations in Akwa Ibom State, Badagry, Dutse, Delta State and a Raffia Institute in Bayelsa State;

Also aware that Nigeria became a major producer and exporter of palm oil because of the exploits of NIFOR, one of which substations is at Abak from where, in 1960, Malaysian agricultural experts collected and cross pollinated oil palm seedlings which now makes Malaysia the second biggest producer and exporter of palm oil;

Informed that the Oruk Anam substation is now in a deplorable state and can no longer create jobs or wealth for the people, consequently stifling economic growth in that sector;

Also informed that although Nigeria controlled 43% of the global output and generated 82% of its national export revenue from palm oil in the 1960s, the country is now a major importer of the product with a yearly demand of 2.7 million metric tons and the Nigeria Ports Authority Report of 2017 shows that Nigeria imported 450,000 tons of palm oil worth billions of Naira, which contributes in depleting the nation's foreign reserve;

Cognizant of the fact that in some counties like Indonesia, 50 million citizens build their lives around palm oil and its derivatives as shown in a 2018 report by Globe Asia, a business magazine;

Concerned that NIFOR's substation at Abak is now completely dilapidated as it does not have a laboratory even as a Research Institute despite consistent budgetary allocations, and workers there, earn a paltry sum of ₦4,000.00 monthly;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) to come up with a blue print to revamp the substation at Abak;
- (ii) also urge the Nigeria Customs Service and other relevant Agencies of Government to strictly enforce the laws on importation of palm oil to boost local production and protect local industries;
- (iii) again urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing, and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to carry out remedial works on the access road to the Oruk Anam substation;

- (iv) further urge the Federal Government to adhere to the Federal Character Principles by appointing an indigene of Akwa Ibom State on the Board and the Management cadre of the Institute; and
- (v) equally urge the management of NIFOR to immediately implement without delay the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) it entered into with the host communities to prevent breakdown of law and order;
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions, Works and Special Duties (when constituted) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Unyime Idem Josiah — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (iv) and *insert* as follows:
“further urge the Federal Government to adhere to the Federal Character Principles by appointing an indigene of all the host communities where NIFOR have stations and sub-stations on the Board and the Management cadre of the Institute” (*Hon. Babatunde Hunpe — Badagry Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vii) as follows:
“still urge the Federal Government to revamp all other institutions of Oil Palm Research” (*Hon. Tyough Robert Aondona — Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the agriculture sector presents Nigeria with the opportunity to diversify her economy and break the over dependence on oil as the major source of revenue and agriculture also has the potential to create jobs for both the youths and other Nigerians, increase wealth and overall revenue base of the nation;

Also noted the economic history of Nigeria which reveals that in the 1960s, (prior to the discovery of crude oil) agriculture sustained the economy as shown by the groundnut pyramids in the North, the cocoa plantations in the West and the oil palm plantations in the East;

Aware that in 1932, Nigeria established the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research (WIFOR) now known as the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) with the main station in Edo State and substations in Akwa Ibom State, Badagry, Dutse, Delta State and a Raffia Institute in Bayelsa State;

Also aware that Nigeria became a major producer and exporter of palm oil because of the exploits of NIFOR, one of which substations is at Abak from where, in 1960, Malaysian agricultural experts collected and cross pollinated oil palm seedlings which now makes Malaysia the second biggest producer and exporter of palm oil;

Informed that the Oruk Anam substation is now in a deplorable state and can no longer create jobs or wealth for the people, consequently stifling economic growth in that sector;

Also informed that although Nigeria controlled 43% of the global output and generated 82% of its national export revenue from palm oil in the 1960s, the country is now a major importer of the product with a yearly demand of 2.7 million metric tons and the Nigeria Ports Authority Report of 2017 shows that Nigeria imported 450,000 tons of palm oil worth billions of Naira, which contributes in depleting the nation's foreign reserve;

Cognizant of the fact that in some counties like Indonesia, 50 million citizens build their lives around palm oil and its derivatives as shown in a 2018 report by Globe Asia, a business magazine;

Concerned that NIFOR's substation at Abak is now completely dilapidated as it does not have a laboratory even as a Research Institute despite consistent budgetary allocations, and workers there, earn a paltry sum of ₦4,000.00 monthly;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) to come up with a blue print to revamp the substation at Abak;
- (ii) also urge the Nigeria Customs Service and other relevant Agencies of Government to strictly enforce the laws on importation of palm oil to boost local production and protect local industries;
- (iii) again urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to carry out remedial works on the access road to the Oruk Anam substation;
- (iv) further urge the Federal Government to adhere to the Federal Character Principles by appointing an indigene of all the host communities where NIFOR have stations and sub-stations on the Board and the Management cadre of the Institute; and
- (v) equally urge the management of NIFOR to immediately implement without delay the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) it entered into with the host communities to prevent breakdown of law and order;
- (vi) still urge the Federal Government to revamp all other institutions of Oil Palm Research; and
- (vii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions, Works, and Special Duties (when constituted) to ensure compliance (HR. 39/07/2019).

11. Need to Construct a Pedestrian Bridge at the Madalla Market, Suleja, Niger State to Reduce the Rate of Accidents around the Market

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. Commendation of the Federal Government on the Warri-Itakpe Rail Project while Urging for its Expansion to Abuja and an Expansion and Overhaul of the Rail Infrastructure in the Country for Economic Development
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls the various efforts by governments in the past to construct and develop rail transportation in the country since 1898 when the first railroad was constructed, the enactment of the Nigerian Railway Corporation Act in 1955 and the continuous but slow development of the railway in Nigeria;

Also recalls the construction of a 32km line of 1067mm gauge from Iddo (Lagos) to Ota (Ogun) and in 1901, it was extended to Ibadan by a distance of 193km and then from Ibadan to Jebba (295km).

Further recalls that the Kano-Baro line which was 562km was constructed in 1907-1911; the Jebba-Minna (252km) from 1909-1915; Port Harcourt-Enugu (243km) 1914-1916 and Kafanchan-Jos (17km) 1922-1927; Kafanchan-Bauchi (238km) 1958-1961; and Bauchi-Maiduguri (302km) 1961-1964;

Notes the development, industrialization and economic growth the introduction, construction and development of rail lines brought to the citizenry in those days who were able to move their goods from one location of the country to another with ease;

Regrets that the development and rise in trade engineered by the construction of the railway lines were however cut short by war, corruption, lack of funds, policy inconsistency, management inefficiency and none continuity of projects by successive governments such that in spite of the huge sums of money plunged into the sector, thereafter, passenger traffic and patronage started to decline from 11,288,000 passengers in 1964 to 4,342,000 ten years later;

Commends the President Muhammadu Buhari led administration for resuscitation and expansion of the railway project with 12 new Stations and expansion of the Warri-Itakpe rail line from strictly that of Industrial goods only to goods, passenger and other commercial services, a railway project which was conceived in 1983 originally for the purpose of transportation of products from Ajaokuta to Delta Steel Company in Aladja in Delta State and which was abandoned by previous governments for about 35 years after the construction of about 245kms;

Also commends the Administration's commitment towards resuscitating, developing and expanding the Railway infrastructure all over the country, the construction of 156.5km double track Standard Gauge line between Lagos and Ibadan to enhance intra and inter City trade, especially in the transportation of agricultural produce and livestock for an exponential growth of the economy and regional development;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to extend the rail line from Itakpe to Abuja and beyond to ensure easy transportation of passengers and goods;
- (ii) urge the Government to follow up with its promises to construct the 2163 km Port Harcourt-Maiduguri Single Track Standard Gauge Line and the Coastal Railway Project;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport (when constituted) to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Transport and Nigeria Railway Corporation to ensure compliance (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate..

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), line 1, immediately after the words "Itakpe to Abuja", insert the following words "and Aba - Ikot Ekpene - Oron" (*Hon. Onofiok Luke Akpan — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubuim Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(ii) *Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:*

"Further urge the Federal Government to extend the railway and reactivate the moribund rail-line from Port Harcourt - Owerri - Enugu - Aba - Onitsha in order to ease transportation problems of the people of South-East" (*Hon. Uju Kingsley - Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled the various efforts by governments in the past to construct and develop rail transportation in the country since 1898 when the first railroad was constructed, the enactment of the Nigerian Railway Corporation Act in 1955 and the continuous but slow development of the railway in Nigeria;

Also recalled the construction of a 32km line of 1067mm gauge from Iddo (Lagos) to Ota (Ogun) and in 1901, it was extended to Ibadan by a distance of 193km and then from Ibadan to Jebba (295km);

Further recalled that the Kano-Baro line which was 562km was constructed in 1907-1911; the Jebba-Minna (252km) from 1909-1915; Port Harcourt-Enugu (243km) 1914-1916 and Kafanchan-Jos (17km) 1922-1927; Kafanchan-Bauchi (238km) 1958-1961; and Bauchi-Maiduguri (302km) 1961-1964;

Noted the development, industrialization and economic growth the introduction, construction and development of rail lines brought to the citizenry in those days who were able to move their goods from one location of the country to another with ease;

Regretted that the development and rise in trade engineered by the construction of the railway lines were however cut short by war, corruption, lack of funds, policy inconsistency, management inefficiency and none continuity of projects by successive governments such that in spite of the huge sums of money plunged into the sector, thereafter, passenger traffic and patronage started to decline from 11,288,000 passengers in 1964 to 4,342,000 ten years later;

Commended the President Muhammadu Buhari led administration for resuscitation and expansion of the railway project with 12 new Stations and expansion of the Warri Itakpe rail line from strictly that of Industrial goods only to goods, passenger and other commercial services, a railway project which was conceived in 1983 originally for the purpose of transportation of products from Ajaokuta to Delta Steel Company in Aladja in Delta State and which was abandoned by previous governments for about 35 years after the construction of about 245kms;

Also commended the Administration's commitment towards resuscitating, developing and expanding the Railway infrastructure all over the country, the construction of 156.5km double track Standard Gauge line between Lagos and Ibadan to enhance intra and inter City trade, especially in the transportation of agricultural produce and livestock for an exponential growth of the economy and regional development;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to extend the rail line from Itakpe to Abuja, Aba - Ikot Ekpene - Oron and beyond to ensure easy transportation of passengers and goods;
- (ii) urge the Government to follow up with its promises to construct the 2163 km Port Harcourt-Maiduguri Single Track Standard Gauge Line and the Coastal Railway Project;

- (iii) Also urge the Federal Government to extend the railway and reactivate the moribund rail-line from Port Harcourt - Owerri - Enugu - Aba - Onitsha in order to ease transportation problems of the people of South-East; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Land Transport (when constituted) to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Transport and Nigeria Railway Corporation to ensure compliance (HR. 40/07/2019).

13. **Call for Investigation of the Non-Remittance of Contributions into the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) by the Federal, State, Local Governments, Parastatals, Public Corporations and Companies from 2010 to Date**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that the Employees Compensation Act, 2010 provides a guaranteed and adequate compensation for all employees or their dependents for any death, injury, disease or disability arising out of or in the course of employment, rehabilitation for employees with work related disabilities, establishment and maintenance of a Solvent Compensation Fund managed for the interest of the employees or employers, among others;

Notes that Section 33 of the Act states that every employer shall within the first two years of the commencement of the Act, make a minimum monthly contribution of 1.0 per cent of the total monthly payroll into the Fund and subsequently, payment will be passed on estimates of the employer's payroll for the year, actual assessment or based on minimum assessment;

Also notes that the private sector players have, to a limited extent, been complying with the provisions of the Act, particularly, in view of Section 16(6) (d) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 which makes it mandatory for bidders to have fulfilled all obligations to pay taxes, pensions and social security contributions, however, the Federal, States, and Local Governments and Parastatals, Public Corporations and Companies have all failed to make payments of their contributions to the Nigeria Social Insurance trust Fund (NSITF), despite the mandatory provisions of the Act;

Further notes that the definition of an employer under Section 73 of the Act is broad and covers all levels of government, given that it defines an 'employer' to include any Individual, Body Corporate, Federal, State or Local Government, or any of the Government Agencies, which has entered into a contract of employment to employ any other person as an employee or apprentice;

Cognizant that by failing, refusing or neglecting to pay the statutory contributions to the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), Governments at all levels are not only violating the law but are equally exposing the vast majority of the Nigerian workforce to uninsured and uncovered risks and occupational hazards, and by extension, the large pool of workers cannot be compensated for injuries, mental stress, occupational hazards, hearing impairments, total/partial disability or disfigurement, among others;

Aware that only members of the Armed Forces, excluding civilian employees of the Armed Forces, are exempted from mandatory employer's contributions under the Act;

Observes that if this anomaly is not addressed, civil and public servants will continue to be short-changed and remain at the receiving end of a system that exposes them to occupational hazards, without any form of insurance or compensation.

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad hoc* Committee to investigate the non-remittance of contributions to the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund by the Federal, State, Local Governments, Parastatals, Public Corporations and Companies and report back within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Zakaria Dauda Nyampa — Madagali/Michika Federal Constituency and 8 others*)

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that the Employees Compensation Act, 2010 provides a guaranteed and adequate compensation for all employees or their dependents for any death, injury, disease or disability arising out of or in the course of employment, rehabilitation for employees with work related disabilities, establishment and maintenance of a Solvent Compensation Fund managed for the interest of the employees or employers, among others;

Noted that Section 33 of the Act states that every employer shall within the first two years of the commencement of the Act, make a minimum monthly contribution of 1.0 per cent of the total monthly payroll into the Fund and subsequently, payment will be passed on estimates of the employer's payroll for the year, actual assessment or based on minimum assessment.

Also noted that the private sector players have, to a limited extent, been complying with the provisions of the Act, particularly, in view of Section 16(6) (d) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 which makes it mandatory for bidders to have fulfilled all obligations to pay taxes, pensions and social security contributions, however, the Federal, States, and Local Governments and Parastatals, Public Corporations and Companies have all failed to make payments of their contributions to the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), despite the mandatory provisions of the Act;

Further noted that the definition of an employer under Section 73 of the Act is broad and covers all levels of government, given that it defines an 'employer' to include any Individual, Body Corporate, Federal, State or Local Government, or any of the Government Agencies, which has entered into a contract of employment to employ any other person as an employee or apprentice;

Cognizant that by failing, refusing or neglecting to pay the statutory contributions to the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), Governments at all levels are not only violating the law but are equally exposing the vast majority of the Nigerian workforce to uninsured and uncovered risks and occupational hazards, and by extension, the large pool of workers cannot be compensated for injuries, mental stress, occupational hazards, hearing impairments, total/partial disability or disfigurement, among others;

Aware that only members of the Armed Forces, excluding civilian employees of the Armed Forces, are exempted from mandatory employer's contributions under the Act;

Observed that if this anomaly is not addressed, civil and public servants will continue to be short-changed and remain at the receiving end of a system that exposes them to occupational hazards, without any form of insurance or compensation.

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad hoc* Committee to investigate the non-remittance of contributions to the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund by the Federal, State and Local Governments, Parastatals, Public Corporations and Companies and report back within six (6) weeks (**HR. 41/07/2019**).

14. Need to Eradicate Child Destitution and Remove Beggars from Nigerian Streets through Provision of Standardized Education System and Improved Livelihood

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the menace of Child destitution in most parts of Nigeria has become a matter of grave concern for the continued wellbeing of the country and is also a source of increasing national embarrassment;

Also notes that the large number of children captured in the destitution net most of whom roam the streets begging for alms or hawking at traffic spots come at a huge cost to the nation in terms of loss of critical human capital and erosion of family values;

Aware that the various religious and cultural value systems frown at begging and abandoning children without proper care, yet parents release their children to pass through such horrific conditions out of poverty and sheer abdication of responsibility;

Also aware that Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the rights of Children requires every member state to take all appropriate legislative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, abuse or neglect;

Concerned about the probable consequences of child destitution and street begging, which ranges from kidnapping, sexual abuse to overall public insecurity;

Further concerned that the negligence by and indifference at all levels of government about the presence and plight of the child destitute are condemnable;

Cognizant that an immediate ban on child destitution and begging will only worsen the situation, and make the children more desperate, vulnerable and threatening to the society, while their continued existence poses grave danger to Nigeria's collective wellbeing and security of the present and succeeding generations;

Resolves to:

- (i) declare child destitution and begging a national emergency and call on Governments at all levels to ensure that children are provided with opportunities to access basic education as guaranteed by the United Nations Convention;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to integrate the Almajiri Education System into the Universal Basic Education Programme;
- (iii) also urge the affected States to comply with extant laws on basic education, especially the UBEC Act by ensuring that all children between the ages of 6-16 are given free and compulsory education;
- (iv) further urge the Federal Government to create a department under the UBEC to handle the Almajiri matters with adequate funding to construct a minimum of one Almajiri school in each of the electoral wards of the affected states by the year 2021 and also ensure that the Almajiri school curriculum is planned to include technical and vocational courses with long-term objectives of self-reliance and sustenance;
- (v) equally urge the Federal Government to conduct an extensive enumeration and mapping exercise to, among other things, determine the location of the Almajiri schools, sizes and staff strength to ensure comprehensiveness of the policy;

- (vi) again urge the Federal Government to immediately embark on comprehensive enumeration of handicapped and people with disabilities in the country to integrate them into the cash transfer component of the Social Investment Programme to improve their livelihood and commit them to stop begging;
- (vii) call on the Office of the Vice-President to, in collaboration with States' relevant institutions, conduct a census of Almajiri schools and headcount of the destitute children with the view to enrolling them in the on-going National Home-grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP);
- (viii) also call on the Federal Government to forward an Executive Bill to the National Assembly to enact a law for the criminalization of child destitution and street begging, one year after the implementation of these resolutions;
- (ix) further call on the relevant ministries, departments and agencies of Government to collaborate with the organised private sector, international donor partners and philanthropic high-net worth individuals to support the new education structure of the Almajiris;
- (x) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (when constituted) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency and 3 others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out Prayer (ii) (Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency)*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (iv), lines 1 and 2, *leave out* the word “create a department under the UBEC to handle the Almajiri matters with” and *insert* the word “provide” (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
“Further urge the Federal Government to engage all local resident, Islamic schools teachers, and former students to share their experience and how to identify strategies to address not only the force begging but also not covered” (*Hon. Kabiru Amadu — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (iv) *Insert* a new Prayer (xi) as follows:
“Still urge the Federal Government to provide direct employment for all those children that went through local islamic schools especially those that memorized the Holy Quran” (*Hon. Kabiru Amadu — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (v) In Prayer (vii), line 1, *leave out* the words “call on”, *insert* the words “Mandate the Committee on Poverty Alleviation (when constituted) to liaise with” (*Hon. Sani U. Bala — Tsanyawa/Kuchi Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (vi) *Leave out Prayer (viii) (Hon. Ayika Valentine Ogbonna— Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency)*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that the menace of Child destitution in most parts of Nigeria has become a matter of grave concern for the continued wellbeing of the country and is also a source of increasing national embarrassment;

Also notes that the large number of children captured in the destitution net most of whom roam the streets begging for alms or hawking at traffic spots come at a huge cost to the nation in terms of loss of critical human capital and erosion of family values;

Aware that the various religious and cultural value systems frown at begging and abandoning children without proper care, yet parents release their children to pass through such horrific conditions out of poverty and sheer abdication of responsibility;

Also aware that Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the rights of Children requires every member state to take all appropriate legislative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, abuse or neglect;

Concerned about the probable consequences of child destitution and street begging, which ranges from kidnapping, sexual abuse to overall public insecurity;

Further concerned that the negligence by and indifference at all levels of government about the presence and plight of the child destitute are condemnable;

Cognizant that an immediate ban on child destitution and begging will only worsen the situation, and make the children more desperate, vulnerable and threatening to the society, while their continued existence poses grave danger to Nigeria is collective wellbeing and security of the present and succeeding generations;

Resolves to:

- (i) declare child destitution and begging a national emergency and call on Governments at all levels to ensure that children are provided with opportunities to access basic education as guaranteed by the United Nations Convention;
- (ii) also urge the affected States to comply with extant laws on basic education, especially the UBEC Act by ensuring that all children between the ages of 6 -16 are given free and compulsory education;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to provide adequate funding to construct a minimum of one Almajiri School in each of the electoral wards of the affected States by the year 2021 and also ensure that the Almajiri school curriculum is planned to include technical and vocational courses with long-term objectives of self-reliance and sustenance;
- (iv) equally urge the Federal Government to conduct an extensive enumeration and mapping exercise to, among other things, determine the location of the Almajiri schools, sizes and staff strength to ensure comprehensiveness of the policy;

- (v) again urge the Federal Government to immediately embark on comprehensive enumeration of handicapped and people with disabilities in the country to integrate them into the cash transfer component of the Social Investment Programme to improve their livelihood and commit them to stop begging;
- (vi) mandate the Committee on Poverty Alleviation (when constituted) to liaise with the Office of the Vice-President to, in collaboration with States' relevant institutions, conduct a census of Almajiri schools and headcount of the destitute children with the view to enrolling them in the on-going National Home-grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP);
- (vii) further call on the relevant ministries, departments and agencies of Government to collaborate with the organised private sector, international donor partners and philanthropic high-net worth individuals to support the new education structure of the Almajiris; and
- (viii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (when constituted) to ensure compliance (HR. 42/07/2019).

15. Need for Mop-up of Grains through Mass Purchase to Sustain Agricultural Production during the Rainy Season

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigerian farmers have responded to the Federal Government's call to embark on massive agricultural production which resulted in impressive output in the last few years;

Also notes that prices of agricultural products, especially grains, have fallen down to a point that a large number of farmers may not have the financial capacity to return to the farms to maintain the same degree of output during this farming season;

Concerned that the current crash in the prices of agricultural produce may engender hunger and poverty which could constitute a threat to the Government's desire to ensure national food security;

Aware that a well-coordinated mop up of grains by the Federal Government will enable farmers invest in the current season to be able to produce more and the grains moped -up can be utilized to address emergency situations, re-cycled for sale to the general public at subsidized prices and also boost Nigeria's export earnings.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to mop up grains from farmers at attractive prices to boost their morale and guarantee the sustenance of agricultural output recorded in recent years;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to direct the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Bank of Industry, the Bank of Agriculture and Commercial Banks to execute the mop up grains project;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to revive the National Grains Reserve where the Grains that would be moped-up will be kept for re-sale to the general public at subsidized prices; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services (when constituted) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ahmad Satomi — Jere Federal Constituency and 21 others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*

“Further urge the Federal Government to establish a National Agricultural Products Marketing and Regulatory Board saddled with the responsibility of regulating the price of agricultural products to the outside world” (*Hon. Ibrahim Almustapha Aliyu — Wurno/Rabah Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*

“Still urge the Federal Government to educate farmers and provide the value of agricultural extension services” (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Leave out Prayers (i) and (iii) and insert as follows:*

“Urge the Federal Government to establish commodity grains Board and provision of Silos to forestall inflation of the grains and also guarantee the sustenance of agricultural output recorded” (*Hon. Ganiyu Johnson Abiodun — Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*

“Urge the Federal Government to reduce the current minimum of importation of grains especially in areas where the country has comparative advantage” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (v) *Insert a new Prayer (viii) as follows:*

“Urge the Federal Government to invest in processing industries to process the agricultural produce being mopped up” (*Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi — Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (v) *Insert a new Prayer (ix) as follows:*

“Urge the Federal Government to encourage improved agricultural practices to be in conformity with international best practice” (*Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi — Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (vi) *Leave out Prayer (ii) (Hon. Ayika Valentine — Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency)*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that Nigerian farmers have responded to the Federal Government's call to embark on massive agricultural production which resulted in impressive output in the last few years;

Also notes that prices of agricultural products, especially grains, have fallen down to a point that a large number of farmers may not have the financial capacity to return to the farms to maintain the same degree of output during this farming season;

Concerned that the current crash in the prices of agricultural produce may engender hunger and poverty which could constitute a threat to the Government's desire to ensure national food security;

Aware that a well-coordinated mop up of grains by the Federal Government will enable farmers invest in the current season to be able to produce more and the grains moped -up can be utilized to address emergency situations, re-cycled for sale to the general public at subsidized prices and also boost Nigeria's export earnings.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to :
 - (a) establish a National Agricultural Products Marketing and Regulatory Board saddled with the responsibility of regulating the price of agricultural products to the outside world,
 - (b) educate farmers and provide the value of agricultural extension services,
 - (c) establish commodity grains Board and provision of Silos to forestall inflation of the grains and also guarantee the sustenance of agricultural output recorded,
 - (d) reduce the current minimum of importation of grains especially in areas where the country has comparative advantage,
 - (e) invest in processing industries to process the agricultural produce being mopped up,
 - (f) encourage improved agricultural practices to be in conformity with international best practice; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services (when constituted) to ensure compliance (**HR. 43/07/2019**).

16. Need for Community Engagement and Participation in the Final Push to End Insurgency in the North East Zone

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the tremendous successes achieved by the men and women of the Nigerian Armed Forces in the fight against insurgency in the North East;

Also notes the significant part played by men and women of the Civilian Joint Task Forces (C-JTF) in assisting the Armed Forces in their operations;

Aware that the Civilian Joint Task Forces (C-JTF) are local young men and women trained and kitted by the State Government to provide, mainly intelligence and other sundry services to the security forces;

Also aware that most of the insurgents come from communities in the North East, which goes without saying that local community engagement and participation in the final push to bring the insurgency to an end cannot be over emphasized;

Informed that most if not all the communities in the North East have local vigilante groups and hunters that know all the nooks and crannies of their various communities;

Believes that if those local vigilante groups and hunters are given formal training by the Armed Forces on an *ad-hoc* basis, as was given to the Civilian Joint Task Forces, they will be of great assistance to the Armed Forces in flushing out the remnants of the insurgents in their various localities;

Appreciates that the Theatre Command, the 7th Brigade, Nigerian Army, Maiduguri has initiated a laudable plan to train about 1000 vigilantes and hunters, however the venture needs to be scaled up to cover the entire zone and with appropriate logistics and resources to go with it;

Concerned that despite all the commendable efforts of the Armed Forces, some pockets of insurgency activities still continue in the North East with guerrilla-type warfare leading to looting, kidnappings and killings in the affected areas;

Cognizant that since insurgency is mostly local in nature, the role of community engagement and participation through the use of local vigilante and hunters can best be exploited;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to provide logistics, materials, and financial resources to the Armed Forces to enable it engage and train local vigilantes and hunters who will then assist in the final push to end the insurgency;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugees and Initiatives on North East Zone (when constituted) to ensure that funds are included in the 2020 budget for the attainment of the above objective (*Hon. Haruna Mshelia — Askira-Uba/Hawal Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the tremendous successes achieved by the men and women of the Nigerian Armed Forces in the fight against insurgency in the North East;

Also noted the significant part played by men and women of the Civilian Joint Task Forces (C-JTF) in assisting the Armed Forces in their operations;

Aware that the Civilian Joint Task Forces (C-JTF) are local young men and women trained and kitted by the State Government to provide, mainly intelligence and other sundry services to the security forces;

Also aware that most of the insurgents come from communities in the North East, which goes without saying that local community engagement and participation in the final push to bring the insurgency to an end cannot be over emphasized;

Informed that most if not all the communities in the North East have local vigilante groups and hunters that know all the nooks and crannies of their various communities;

Believed that if those local vigilante groups and hunters are given formal training by the Armed Forces on an *ad-hoc* basis, as was given to the Civilian Joint Task Forces, they will be of great assistance to the Armed Forces in flushing out the remnants of the insurgents in their various localities;

Appreciated that the Theatre Command, the 7th Brigade, Nigerian Army, Maiduguri has initiated a laudable plan to train about 1000 vigilantes and hunters, however the venture needs to be scaled up to cover the entire zone and with appropriate logistics and resources to go with it;

Concerned that despite all the commendable efforts of the Armed Forces, some pockets of insurgency activities still continue in the North East with guerrilla-type warfare leading to looting, kidnappings and killings in the affected areas;

Cognizant that since insurgency is mostly local in nature, the role of community engagement and participation through the use of local vigilante and hunters can best be exploited;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to provide logistics, materials, and financial resources to the Armed Forces to enable it engage and train local vigilantes and hunters who will then assist in the final push to end the insurgency; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugees and Initiatives on North East Zone (when constituted) to ensure that funds are included in the 2020 budget for the attainment of the above objective (HR. 44/07/2019).

17. Call on the Federal Government to Redress the Mass Exodus of Medical and Healthcare Professionals

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the adage that "health is wealth", given that without a healthy and productive workforce, the economy of any nation would suffer jeopardy and progress would become stunted;

Also notes the abysmal health indices of the country which is rated as one of the worst in the world as Nigeria is counted among the countries with the highest maternal, new-born and under-5 mortality rates;

Further notes that the country is currently facing triple challenges of communicable diseases such as cholera, meningitis and tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, heart diseases and diabetes and re-emerging infections like monkey pox and lassa fever;

Aware that the human resources for health (medical/health workers) to population ratio for the country is far below the ratio recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) given that the doctor to patient ratio for Nigeria stands at 1:6000, as against the WHO's recommended 1:600;

Also aware that the gross deficiency of human resources in the health care sector causes great delay in attending to the sick, especially in emergency situations often leading to preventable deaths and also burn-out syndrome which further reduces the efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare provider;

Cognizant that Nigeria had one of the best healthcare delivery services in the 1970s and early 1980s among the Commonwealth countries as many foreign nationals came to be attended at the University

College Hospital, Ibadan, however the situation started deteriorating in the late 1980s, thus leading to the exodus of practitioners to other countries with the attendant consequence of many of the medical colleges in the nation's universities losing accreditation to train medical and healthcare practitioners;

Further aware that the major reasons for the emigration of healthcare professionals which trend has been on the rise recently include embargo on employment, longer period in securing waivers for replacement of dead, retired or disengaged staff, poor job satisfaction, lack of capacity building, professional enhancement and fulfilment, among others and the effects of this negative trend include loss of specialists; especially the ones with rare skills in various fields of medicine and allied professions;

Still aware that the loss of lecturers by medical colleges lead to reduction in the standard of medical education and training at both undergraduate and postgraduate/specialist levels, resulting into loss of accreditation by the medical colleges of universities and further reduces the number of new entrants into the medical and healthcare practice;

Informed that the worsening trend of medical tourism to other parts of the world with better resourced health sector is both a cause and effect as they have serious economic consequences, especially that of capital flight; noting that Nigeria lost more than \$1billion to medical tourism in 2017 and the cumulative effect of all the above is that Nigeria would never achieve Universal Health Coverage, thus leaving her behind in the path of wholesome development among the comity of nations.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to lift the embargo on employment of medical/health professionals as a matter of utmost priority;
- (ii) also urge relevant agencies of government such as Budget Office of the Federation, Office of the Accountant General of the Federation, the national Salaries, Income and Wages Commission, to fill vacancies currently existing in the hospitals and medical and health training institutions resulting from disengagement of staff;
- (iii) further urge the Governments of the States of the Federation and federal capital Territory Authority (FCTA) to consider, with dispatch, the employment of medical and health professionals into the States and Local Government Health Services to fill existing vacancies and further bridge the gap in human resources for the health sector.
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services (when constituted) to ensure compliance (Hon. Yusuf Tanko Sununu — Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the adage that "health is wealth", given that without a healthy and productive workforce, the economy of any nation would suffer jeopardy and progress would become stunted;

Also noted the abysmal health indices of the country which is rated as one of the worst in the world as Nigeria is counted among the countries with the highest maternal, new-born and under-5 mortality rates;

Further noted that the country is currently facing triple challenges of communicable diseases such as cholera, meningitis and tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, heart diseases and diabetes and re-emerging infections like monkey pox and lassa fever;

Aware that the human resources for health (medical/health workers) to population ratio for the country is far below the ratio recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) given that the doctor to patient ratio for Nigeria stands at 1:6000, as against the WHO's recommended 1:600;

Also aware that the gross deficiency of human resources in the health care sector causes great delay in attending to the sick, especially in emergency situations often leading to preventable deaths and also burn-out syndrome which further reduces the efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare provider;

Cognizant that Nigeria had one of the best healthcare delivery services in the 1970s and early 1980s among the Commonwealth countries as many foreign nationals came to be attended at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, however the situation started deteriorating in the late 1980s, thus leading to the exodus of practitioners to other countries with the attendant consequence of many of the medical colleges in the nation's universities losing accreditation to train medical and healthcare practitioners;

Further aware that the major reasons for the emigration of healthcare professionals which trend has been on the rise recently include embargo on employment, longer period in securing waivers for replacement of dead, retired or disengaged staff, poor job satisfaction, lack of capacity building, professional enhancement and fulfilment, among others and the effects of this negative trend include loss of specialists, especially the ones with rare skills in various fields of medicine and allied professions;

Still aware that the loss of lecturers by medical colleges lead to reduction in the standard of medical education and training at both undergraduate and postgraduate/specialist levels, resulting into loss of accreditation by the medical colleges of universities and further reduces the number of new entrants into the medical and healthcare practice;

Informed that the worsening trend of medical tourism to other parts of the world with better resourced health sector is both a cause and effect as they have serious economic consequences, especially that of capital flight, noting that Nigeria lost more than \$1billion to medical tourism in 2017 and the cumulative effect of all the above is that Nigeria would never achieve Universal Health Coverage, thus leaving her behind in the path of wholesome development among the comity of nations.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to lift the embargo on employment of medical/health professionals as a matter of utmost priority;
- (ii) also urge relevant agencies of government such as Budget Office of the Federation, Office of the Accountant General of the Federation, the national Salaries, Income and Wages Commission, to fill vacancies currently existing in the hospitals and medical and health training institutions resulting from disengagement of staff;
- (iii) further urge the Governments of the States of the Federation and federal capital Territory Authority (FCTA) to consider, with dispatch, the employment of medical and health professionals into the States and Local Government Health Services to fill existing vacancies and further bridge the gap in human resources for the health sector.
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services (when constituted) to ensure compliance (HR. 45/07/2019).

18. Consideration of Report

A Bill for an Act to Establish Proceeds of Crimes Management Agency and make Provisions for the Management of Properties derived from unlawful activities; and for Related Matters (HB. 64) (Committee of the Whole):

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Proceeds of Crimes Management Agency and make Provisions for the Management of Properties derived from unlawful activities; and for Related Matters (HB. 64)" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere— Owan East/Owan West 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 ESTABLISH PROCEEDS OF CRIMES MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND MAKE PROVISIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PROPERTIES DERIVED FROM UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 64)

PART I — OBJECTIVE AND APPLICATION**Clause 1: Objectives.**

The objectives of this Bill are to —

- (a) provide for an institutional framework for the management of the proceeds of crime or benefits derived from unlawful activities; and
- (b) make provisions for the custody, preservation, value addition, management and disposal of seized, confiscated and forfeited property derived from unlawful activities and any instrumentalities used or intended to be used in the commission of such unlawful activities (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Application.

The provisions of this Bill apply to —

- (a) assets and the proceeds and instrumentalities of unlawful activity seized or recovered by Nigerian law enforcement agencies pursuant to interim or final forfeiture orders of Court;
- (b) orders and directives by the Court to support the preservation, management or disposal of the proceeds and instrumentalities of unlawful activity and realisable assets by law enforcement agencies; and
- (c) the management of recovered properties by the Agency established under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF
CRIMES MANAGEMENT AGENCY

- Clause 3: Establishment of the Proceeds of Crimes Recovery and Management Agency.**
- (1) There is established a body to be known as the Proceeds of Crimes Management Agency (in this Bill referred to as "the Agency") which shall be constituted in accordance with, and shall have such functions as are conferred on it by this Bill.
- (2) The Agency —
- (a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
- (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
- (c) may acquire, hold, purchase, mortgage and deal with property, movable or immovable, real or personal, subject to the provisions of the Land Use Act.
- (3) The Agency shall be independent in the discharge of its duties under this Bill.
- (4) The common seal of the Agency shall be kept in the custody of such person as the Board may direct and is authenticated by the signature of the Director - General or such other officer as the Board may designate (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

- Clause 4: Objectives of the Agency.**
- The objectives of the Agency are to —
- (a) enforce and administer the provisions of this Bill;
- (b) co-ordinate and enforce all other laws on the management of proceeds of crime and instrumentalities of unlawful activity; and
- (c) regulate, supervise and ensure the effective administration of recovered property, management of proceeds of crime and other related matters in Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

- Clause 5: Establishment and Functions of the Board.**
- (1) There is established, a part-time Governing Board for the Agency (in this Bill referred to as "the Board").
- (2) The Board shall consist of the following members:
- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) a representative not below the rank of a Director or its equivalent from the following Ministries and institutions —
- (i) Federal Ministry of Justice,

- (ii) Federal Ministry of Finance,
 - (iii) Department of State Services,
 - (iv) Accountant-General of the Federation,
 - (v) Central Bank of Nigeria,
 - (vi) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission,
 - (vii) Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit,
 - (viii) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency,
 - (ix) Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission,
 - (x) Code of Conduct Bureau,
 - (xi) National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons,
 - (xii) Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria,
 - (xiii) Nigeria Police Force, and
 - (xiv) Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps;
 - (c) three other members with cognate experience in Estate Survey and Valuation, Banking and Finance and a representative of the Civil Society;
 - (d) the Director-General of the Agency, who shall be secretary to the Board.
- (3) The Chairman shall have at least twenty years cognate experience in the area of Law, Criminology, Estate Management, Finance and Business Administration;
- (4) The Chairman, Director-General and other members of the Board other than *ex-officio* members shall —
- (a) be appointed by the President subject to the confirmation of the Senate; and
 - (b) hold office for a term of four years and may be re-appointed for another term of four years and no more.
- (5) The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant where —
- (a) his term of office expires;
 - (b) he resigns his office by a notice in writing under his hand addressed to the President;

- (c) he dies or becomes incapable of performing the functions of his office due to mental or physical illness;
 - (d) has been convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty;
 - (e) he is guilty of gross misconduct relating to his duties;
 - (f) in the case of an ex-officio member, he ceases to hold the office on the basis of which he became a member of the Board.
- (6) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, it shall be filled through an appointment by the President of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor and the successor shall represent the same interest as that member whose exit created the vacancy.
- (7) The Board shall —
- (a) formulate and provide general policy guidelines for the discharge of the functions of the Agency;
 - (b) monitor and ensure implementation of the policies and programmes of the Agency; and
 - (c) carry out such functions as are necessary or expedient to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Agency under this Bill.
- (8) The provisions of the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and other matters mentioned under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6 Appointment and Tenure of the Director-General of the Agency.

- (1) There shall be for the Agency, a Director-General who shall be appointed by the President in the manner prescribed in Section 5 (4);
- (2) A person shall not be appointed as the Director - General, except he has a recognised degree in Law, Estate Management, Finance or Business Administration with at least twenty years cognate experience;
- (3) The Director-General shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency and be responsible for —
 - (a) the day-to-day administration of the Agency;
 - (b) the execution of the policies of the Agency;
 - (c) the organization, control and management of the affairs of the Agency;
 - (d) the implementation of the Agency's functions and ensuring that it achieves its goals;
 - (e) the direction, supervision and control of other employees of the Agency; and

- (f) ensuring the transparent maintenance of accounting records in accordance with applicable laws governing statutory bodies (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Other employees of the Agency and conditions of service.

- (1) The Agency shall appoint, designate or cause to be deployed, directly or on secondment from any public or private bodies such number and category of employees as it may require to assist it in the effective performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The Agency may, from time to time, appoint such other staff or second officers from relevant government Agencies as it may deem necessary to assist the Agency in the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (3) The Board shall be responsible for determining the job description, title, terms, qualifications and salaries, including allowances of the employees of the Agency, subject to the approval of the National Income, Salaries and Wages Commission in the case of remunerations.
- (4) The Board shall make rules relating generally to the conditions of service of employees of the Agency, including rules providing for the appointment, promotion, advancement, determination of appointment, and disciplinary control, of those employees.
- (5) Service in the Agency shall be subject to the Pension Reform Act, provided that nothing in this section shall exclude the Agency from employing staff on non-pensionable terms and conditions.
- (6) The Agency has powers to —
 - (a) set up Departments, Special Units, technical committees, working groups and task forces to assist the Agency in the performance of its functions under this Bill; and
 - (b) make changes to its structure, with the approval of the Board.
- (7) There is appointed for each of the Departments and Special Units, a principal officer who shall be known by such designation as the Agency may determine (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Functions of the Agency.

The Agency shall —

- (a) implement, enforce and duly administer the provisions of this Bill;
- (b) oversee the management of seized, forfeited or recovered assets;
- (c) authorize and appoint private asset managers and ensure that assets managers are properly bonded and insured;
- (d) ensure transparency in the appointment of asset managers, monitoring asset and management costs;

- (e) establish and maintain:
 - (i) disposal systems, and
 - (ii) lists of approved auctioneers and valuers and issue instructions for the realization or security of assets whilst ensuring fair process;
- (f) establish and maintain a central database of the activities and casework of the Agency, all seized and recovered assets and of the asset managers and auctioneers, insurers and other necessary support services;
- (g) collaborate with law enforcement agencies to negotiate the return and management of all assets seized by foreign countries on behalf of the Federal and State Governments for the benefit of Nigerians under the direction of the Attorney-General of the Federation;
- (h) recommend that in exceptional circumstances, a portion not exceeding five per cent of the recovered proceeds of offences be allocated to the agency responsible for the recovery of the proceeds for operational expenses;
- (i) recommend the proper application of all returned assets and proceeds of unlawful activities;
- (j) assist relevant law enforcement agencies in asset tracing and the investigation of the proceeds of unlawful activity or the instrumentalities of offences;
- (k) collaborate with other government bodies both within and outside Nigeria that are carrying on functions wholly or in part analogous with those of the Agency;
- (l) have the custody and management of confiscated and forfeited assets and funds under this Bill;
- (m) maintain an accurate inventory of all assets, recording their location, value, condition, and a description of their status in relation to any proceedings;
- (n) establish training or capacity building programmes for its staff and other relevant Agencies; and
- (o) carry out such other functions as are necessary or expedient to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Agency under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihomvhere – Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Powers of the Agency.

- (1) The Agency may, subject to the provisions of this Bill, exercise such powers, execute agreements or contracts as it considers necessary and, in particular:
 - (a) the Agency may do anything that is reasonably necessary to enable it take over, assume control and preserve the property or assets submitted or handed over to it under this Bill;

- (b) engage contractors, consultants, brokerage companies, investment advisers, financial investigators and other experts for the effective performance of its functions under this Bill; and
 - (c) order the disposal of assets that are perishable or susceptible to deterioration, or whose maintenance or administration may be excessively onerous or expensive leading to a diminution of the recoverable amount.
- (2) The Agency shall perform other functions that are necessary or expedient for the full discharge of all or any of the functions conferred on it under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Co-operation with other Bodies.

In the performance of its functions under this Bill, the Agency shall assist and cooperate with relevant organisations, financial supervisory institutions and any other person or authority involved in the investigation and prosecution of crimes under this Bill or any other law relating to the recovery of assets or properties obtained from unlawful activities (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Information relating to the recovery of Proceeds of Crime.

The Agency shall have power to require any relevant organisation or authority to surrender to it, any information, data, list or records of recovered or forfeited proceeds or instrumentalities of unlawful activities by the relevant Organizations, Agencies or Authorities (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 12: Fund of the Agency.

There is established for the Agency a fund (in this Bill referred to as "the Fund") which consist of —

- (a) take off grants, annual subventions and other budgetary allocations received from the Federal Government;
- (b) such monies as may be granted to the Agency by the Government of the Federation;
- (c) gifts, grants, aids, and testamentary disposition, if the terms and conditions attached to any of them are not inconsistent with the functions of the Agency; and
- (d) such other sums of monies as may be received by the Agency from other sources (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Expenditure of the Agency.

The Director-General, under the direction of the Board, shall apply the funds at the disposal of the Agency to —

- (a) the cost of administration of the Agency;
- (b) pay the salaries, allowances and benefits of employees of the Agency;
- (c) pay other overhead allowances and benefits, charges and expenses of the Agency; and
- (d) undertake such other activities as are connected with the functions of the Agency under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Estimates of the Agency.

- (1) The Agency shall in each financial year prepare and present to the National Assembly, a statement of estimated income and expenditure for the succeeding financial year.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the Agency may, where necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, submit supplementary or adjusted statements of estimated income and expenditure to the National Assembly for approval (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Accounts and Audit.

- (1) The Agency shall:
 - (a) keep proper and regular accounts and other records of monies received and paid by the Agency and of the several purposes for which the monies have been received or paid, and of its assets, credits and liabilities;
 - (b) do all things necessary to ensure that all payments out of its funds and bank accounts are correctly made and properly authorized and that adequate control is maintained over the assets in its custody and over the expenditures incurred by the Agency; and
 - (c) within the first four months of each financial year, submit its accounts to external auditors appointed by the Agency from the list and in accordance with guidelines approved by the Auditor-General for the Federation, its accounts for audit.
- (2) The remuneration of the auditor shall be paid out of the funds of the Agency (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Annual Report.

- (1) The Director-General shall, not later than 30th September in each financial year, submit to the Board in respect of the preceding financial year an annual report on the activities of the Agency in such form as the Board may direct.

- (2) The report under subsection (1), shall include:
 - (a) information with regard to the activities of the Agency in that year;
 - (b) a copy of the audited accounts of the Agency in respect of that year together with the Auditor-General's report on the accounts; and
 - (c) such other information as the Board may request.
- (3) The Board shall, on receiving the annual report, cause it to be submitted to the National Assembly within the financial year.
- (4) The Director-General shall provide the Board with such information relating to the affairs of the Agency as the Board may request (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — ADMINISTRATION

Clause 17: Powers and duties of the Agency in respect of property seized.

This Part sets out the powers and duties of the Agency in respect of property, (in this Part referred to as "seized property") seized and put under the control and custody of the Agency by a Court in the carrying out of a seizure or interim forfeiture order (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Preserving controlled property.

- (1) The Agency may, pursuant to a Court order, do anything that is reasonably necessary for the purpose of preserving the seized assets or property, including —
 - (a) becoming a party to any civil proceedings affecting the property;
 - (b) ensuring that the property is insured;
 - (c) realizing or otherwise dealing with any of the property that is securities or investments; and
 - (d) where any of the property is a business —
 - (i) retaining, employing and, or terminating the employment of persons in the business and
 - (ii) doing anything necessary or convenient to carry on the business on a sound commercial basis.
- (2) The Agency shall, for the purposes of performing its functions under this Bill, engage persons competent and qualified in the relevant area or field (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Agency is not liable for loss, etc.

- (1) Except where the Court is satisfied that the Agency is negligent in respect of taking custody and control or management of a property, the Agency is not liable for —
- (a) any loss or damage, sustained by a person claiming an interest in all or part of the seized property, arising from the Agency taking custody, control or management of the property;
 - (b) any action taken by the Agency in order to preserve the value of the property.
- (2) In the management of seized, confiscated or forfeited property, the Agency shall not pay any rates, land tax or municipal or statutory charges imposed by virtue of any law in respect of the controlled property, except out of any rents or profits that the Agency receives from the property (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — CONFISCATED AND FORFEITED PROPERTIES ACCOUNT**Clause 20: Establishment of Confiscated and Confiscated and Forfeited Properties Account and payments into the Account.**

- (1) There is established under this Part, a Confiscated and Forfeiture Property Account (in this Bill referred to as the Confiscated and Forfeited Properties Account) which is a special designated account with the Central Bank of Nigeria into which shall be credited
- (a) all monies realized from the proceeds of sale, management or other forms of disposal of seized, attached, confiscated and forfeited assets under this Bill;
 - (b) monies paid to Nigeria by a foreign country:
 - (i) under any treaty or arrangement providing for mutual assistance in criminal matters, or
 - (ii) through repatriation of proceeds of unlawful activity; and
 - (c) monies paid to the Agency on behalf of the Federal Government in settlement of proceedings connected with this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 21: For the purpose of this Part, seized, recovered or forfeited assets are the —

- (a) amount representing proceeds from a sale or other disposition of any property or asset authorized by regulations made under this Bill; and
- (b) proceeds of an unlawful activity and money seized, recovered or forfeited under —
 - (i) the Terrorism (Prevention) Act,

- (ii) the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act,
 - (iii) the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act,
 - (iv) Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act,
 - (v) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act,
 - (vi) Trafficking In Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act,
 - (vii) the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act,
 - (viii) Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015, and
 - (ix) any other law dealing with confiscation and forfeiture of property in force in Nigeria;
- (c) instrumentalities of unlawful activity, including the proceeds of their disposal or confiscation under the —
- (i) Terrorism (Prevention) Act,
 - (ii) Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act,
 - (iii) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act,
 - (iv) Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act,
 - (v) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act,
 - (vi) Trafficking In Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act,
 - (vii) Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act,
 - (viii) Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015, and
 - (ix) any other law dealing with confiscation and forfeiture of property in force in Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Payments out of the Account.

Subject to the simple majority of each House of the National Assembly, the President may authorise the expenditure from time to time for funds in the Confiscated and Forfeited Properties Account to —

- (a) compensate any State which has suffered grave pecuniary loss on account of the offence or conduct that gave rise to the confiscation or forfeiture order;
- (b) compensate any person who has suffered grave pecuniary loss on account of the offence or conduct that gave rise to the confiscation or forfeiture order;

- (c) pay any foreign country or an agency under the provisions of any treaty agreement or scheme for mutual legal assistance;
- (d) make payments under any programme approved by the President under section 24;
- (e) make any payment necessary to satisfy Nigeria's obligations in respect of a registered foreign forfeiture order; and
- (f) make any payment the Agency, on behalf of the Federal Government is directed to make (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 23: Audit of the Confiscated and Forfeited Properties Account.

The Confiscated and Forfeited Properties Account shall be audited in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 24: Programmes for expenditure on law enforcement, etc.

- (1) Subject to the simple majority of each House of the National Assembly, the President may authorise the expenditure from time to time for funds in the Confiscated and Forfeited Properties Account.
- (2) The President may approve expenditure out of the Confiscated and Forfeited Properties Account for any one or more of the following purposes —
 - (a) crime prevention measures;
 - (b) law enforcement measures;
 - (c) measures relating to treatment of drug addiction;
 - (d) measures outlined for the rehabilitation of victims of crime;
 - (e) education, health, youth development, mass housing, rural electrification and development, agricultural reform, water and sanitation;
 - (f) measures relating to the compensation and rehabilitation of victims of terrorist activities; and
 - (g) such other sustainable development programmes as may be approved by the Federal Government (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 25: Restriction on execution against property of the Agency.

In any action or suit against the Agency, no execution shall be levied or attachment process issued against the Agency (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Indemnity of officers of the Agency.

A member of the Board, Director-General, officer or employee of the Agency shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Agency against any proceedings brought against him in his capacity as a member of the Board, Director-General, officer or employee of the Agency in the course of performing his duties (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 27: Unlawful dealing with forfeited property.

- (1) Any person who falsifies, destroys, conceals, alters or permits the concealment, falsification, destruction, or disposal of documents relating to a forfeited property or the property itself or in any way unlawfully deals with a seized or forfeited property or proceeds of crime in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of five years without the option of a fine.
- (2) Any person who, without due authorization by the Agency, deals with, sells or otherwise disposes of any forfeited property or assets is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of five years without the option of fine (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — MISCELLANEOUS**Clause 28: Regulations and guidelines.**

- (1) The Attorney-General may make regulations as are necessary or expedient for the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Bill
- (2) The Agency may issue guidelines as may be necessary for the exercise of any of the duties, functions or powers of the Agency under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 29: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"account" means any facility or arrangement through which a financial institution accepts deposits or allows withdrawals and includes —

- (a) a facility or arrangement for —
 - (i) a fixed term deposits, or
 - (ii) a safety deposit box;
- (b) a credit card account;
- (c) a loan account, other than a credit card account;
- (d) an account held in the form of units in:
 - (i) a cash management trust; or

- (ii) a trust of a kind prescribed by the regulations; and
- (e) a closed account, and it is immaterial whether an account has a nil balance or any transactions have been allowed in relation to an account (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

"authorised officer" means —

- (a) a member of staff of the Agency designated by the Director-General; and
- (b) a member, officer or employee of a relevant organization (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

"Confiscated and Forfeited Properties Account" means the account established under section 20 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Confiscated Forfeited Properties Account" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Court" means the Federal High Court of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

"data" includes —

- (a) information in any form; and
- (b) any programme or part of a programme (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

"data held in a computer" includes data held in —

- (a) any removable data storage in electronic devices for the time being held in a computer;
- (b) data storage in electronic devices on a computer network of which the computer forms a part; or
- (c) data held in any remote storage in electronic devices to which data has been sent from the computer (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "data held in a computer" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Director-General" means the Director-General appointed for the Agency under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

"instrumentality of an offence" means property used or intended to be used in or in connection with the commission of an offence, whether the property is situated within or outside Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

"Law Enforcement Agencies" include but not limited to anti-corruption agencies, security, and regulatory bodies (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Law Enforcement Agencies" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"member" means a member of the Board including the Chairman and the Director-General of the Agency (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

"proceeds of unlawful activity" means property —

- (a) wholly derived or realized, whether directly or indirectly, from unlawful activity; or
- (b) partly derived or realized, whether directly or indirectly, from unlawful activity.

whether the property is situated within or outside Nigeria, or whether or not a person has been convicted of the offence (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "proceeds of unlawful activity" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"property" means real or personal property of every description, whether situated in Nigeria or elsewhere and whether tangible or intangible, and includes an interest in any such real or personal property (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

"relevant organisation" means —

- (a) the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission;
- (b) the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission;

- (c) the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency;
- (d) the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement Agency;
- (e) the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control;
- (f) the Nigeria Customs Service;
- (g) the Code of Conduct Bureau;
- (h) the Federal Inland Revenue Service; and
- (i) such other organizations as the Attorney - General may, from time to time, designate (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

"unlawful activity" means an act, omission or conduct which constitutes an offence or which contravenes any law in force in Nigeria, whether the act, omission or conduct occurred before or after the commencement of this Bill or where the offence is committed in a country outside Nigeria, would also constitute an offence if it had been committed in Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

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

Clause 30: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Proceeds of Crimes Bill, 2019 (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

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

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD

Proceedings of the Board

1. Subject to this Bill and section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Board shall have power to regulate its proceedings and may make standing orders with respect to the holding of its meetings, and those of its committees, notices to be given, the keeping of minutes of its proceedings, the custody and production for inspection of such minutes and such other matters as the Board may, from time to time determine.
2. There shall be at least three ordinary meetings of the Board in every calendar year and, the Board shall meet whenever it is convened by the Chairman, and if the Chairman is requested to do so by notice given to him by at least four other members, he shall convene a meeting of the Board to be held within thirty days from the date on which the notice was given.
3. Every meeting of the Board shall be presided over by the Chairman and if the Chairman is unable to attend a particular meeting, the members present at the meeting shall elect one of their members to preside at the meeting.

4. The quorum of any meeting of the Board shall consist of the Chairman (or in an appropriate case, the person presiding at the meeting pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Schedule) and three other members.
5. A question put before the Board at a meeting shall be decided by consensus and where this is not possible, by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.
6. The Chairman shall, in the case of an equality of votes, have a casting vote in addition to his deliberate vote.
7. Where the Board seeks the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may invite that person to attend, for such period as it deems fit, but a person who is invited by virtue of this paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards the quorum.
8. The Board shall meet for the conduct of its business at such places and on such days as the Chairman may appoint.

Committees

9. The Board may appoint one or more committees to carry out, on behalf of the Board, such of its functions as the Board may determine and report on any matter with which the Board is concerned.
10. A committee appointed under paragraph 10 of this Schedule shall be presided over by a member of the Board and shall consist of such number of persons (not necessarily all members of the Board) as, may be determined by the Board and a person other than a member of the Board shall hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.
11. A decision of a committee of the Board is of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

13. The fixing of the seal of the Agency shall be authenticated by the signature of the Director-General and such other person as the Board may designate.
14. A contract or an instrument which, if made or executed by any person not being a body corporate, may not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Agency by the Director-General or by any person generally or specifically authorised to act for that purpose by the Board.
15. A document purporting to be a contract, an instrument or other document signed or sealed on behalf of the Agency is received in evidence and until the contrary is proved, be presumed without further proof, to have been properly signed or sealed.
16. The validity of any proceeding of the Board or its committees shall not be affected by:
 - (a) any vacancy in the membership of the Board or its committees;
 - (b) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings; or
 - (c) any defect in the appointment of a member.

17. (1) Any member of the Board or committee who has a personal interest in any arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or any committee shall:
- (a) disclose his interest to the Board or committee; and
 - (b) not vote on any question relating to the arrangement.
- (2) Failure by any member of the Board or committee to comply with the provision of subparagraph (1) (a) may constitute a ground for removal of the member from the Board or committee (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the provisions of the Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill provides an institutional framework for the management of proceeds of crime or benefits derived from unlawful activities, harmonises and consolidates existing legislative provisions on the management of proceeds of crime in Nigeria, it also makes provisions for the disposal of seized, confiscated and forfeited property derived from unlawful activities and any instrumentalities used or intended to be used in the commission of unlawful activities (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish Proceeds of Crimes Management Agency and Make Provisions for the Management of Properties Derived from Unlawful Activities and for Related Matters (IIB. 64) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/West 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 Establish Proceeds of Crimes Management Agency and make Provisions for the Management of Properties derived from unlawful activities; and for Related Matters (IIB. 64) and approved Clauses 1 - 30, the Schedule, 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.

19. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Proceeds of Crimes Management Agency and make Provisions for the Management of Properties derived from unlawful activities; and for Related Matters (IIB. 64) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed. "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Proceeds of Crimes Management Agency and make Provisions for the Management of Properties derived from unlawful activities; and for Related Matters (IIB. 64) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

20. **Adjournment of First Sitting:**

That this House do now adjourn the First Sitting till 4.10 p.m. (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado* – *House Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 4.05 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker