



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 24 July, 2019

1. The House met at 11.25 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 23 July, 2019.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**

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

Mr Deputy Speaker recognised the presence of the following:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Ayis Academy*, Lugbe, Abuja;
 - (ii) Members of *Enugu State Law Students Association (ESLAWSA)*, Enugu State University for Science and Technology (ESUT).

- (b) **Defection:**

Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba (*Ehime Mbano/Ihite Uboma/Obowo Federal Constituency*) announcing his defection from the Accord Party (AP) to All Progressives Congress (APC).

- (c) **Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Circumstances that led to the Arrest of Zainab Aliyu and Ibrahim Abubakar by the Saudi Arabia Authorities for alleged Drug Trafficking (HR. 6/07/2019):**

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:

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|-----|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Alli Adeyemi Taofeek | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Ibrahim Mohammed | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Abubakar Yunusa Ahmad | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Ogunlola Omowumi Olubunmi | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Bala Kokani | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Isah Bashar | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Kolawale Lawal Yusuf | — | <i>Member</i> |

(8)	Hon. Munraina Saubana Ajibola	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Atigwe Simon Chukwuemeka	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Adaelu Solomon Ezinwa O.	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Abdullahi Shehu Yakubu	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Taofeek Ayiliesoro Abimbola	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Chinyere Igwe Emmanuel	—	<i>Member</i>

4. Petition

A petition from Ogaga Fejiro, on behalf of 711 support staff of Warri Refining and Petrochemical Company (WRPC) appealing for conversion to permanent staff of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), was presented and laid by Hon. Igbakpa Ben Rollands (*Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*);

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Need to Investigate the Alleged Expenditure of about \$16 Billion Dollars on the Power Sector Reform Programme from 1999 — 2007 without Commensurate Output:*

Hon. Sada Soli (*Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

(ii) *Deplorable Health Condition of Miss Aluko Bidemi Grace, Nigeria, Football Heroine:*

Hon. Ibrahim Kunle Olarewaju (*Ido-Osi/Moba/Ilejemeje 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.

Deplorable Health Condition of Miss Aluko Bidemi Grace, Nigeria, Football Heroine:

The House:

Notes that in April 2019, Miss Aluko Bidemi Grace, a former football heroine, with the Nigerian Flamingos and Falconet was diagnosed of breast cancer at the University of Ibadan Teaching Hospital (UCH);

Also notes that she had undergone mastectomy, sererial chemotherapy and radiation treatments at whooping cost to her immediate family;

Worried that despite the treatment at the UCH, her condition had deteriorated rather than improve owing to inadequate health facilities at the UCH, as well as financial challenges.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to urgently undertake a holistic assessment of Miss Aluko Bidemi Grace's health condition with a view to providing adequate health care for her;

- (ii) urge the Ministry of Youths and Sport Development to provide comprehensive health insurance for all Nigerian Footballers under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) (*Hon. Ibrahim Kunle Olarewaju — Ido-Osi/Moba/Ilejemeje Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in April 2019, Miss Aluko Bidemi Grace, a former football heroine, with the Nigerian Flamingos and Falconet was diagnosed of breast cancer at the University of Ibadan Teaching Hospital (UCH);

Also noted that she had undergone mastectomy, serial chemotherapy and radiation treatments at whooping cost to her immediate family;

Worried that despite the treatment at the UCH, her condition had deteriorated rather than improve owing to inadequate health facilities at the UCH, as well as financial challenges.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to urgently undertake a holistic assessment of Miss Aluko Bidemi Grace's health condition with a view to providing adequate health care for her; and
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Youths and Sport Development to provide comprehensive health insurance for all Nigerian Footballers under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) (**HIR. 49/07/2019**).

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

- (iii) *Need to Investigate the Circumstances of the Alleged Abscondment by Five Nigerian Soldiers of the Operation Harbin Kunama III with Large Amount of Cash:*
Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba (Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Investigate the Circumstances of the Alleged Abscondment by Five Nigerian Soldiers of the Operation Harbin Kunama III with Large Amount of Cash:

The House:

Aware that the Nigeria Army in a press release signed by Col. Sagir Musa the acting director of Army Public Relations on the 15 July, 2019 titled, "RE: Nigerian Soldiers on escort duty abscond with billions of Naira";

Also aware that the press release stated that five personnel of "operation Harbin Kunama III" based in Sokoto were detailed on 11 July, 2019 at about 1500 hours (3 p.m.) to escort a VIP with a large amount of cash to kaduna, a distance of about 400 kilometers;

Worried that on arrival at the Nigeria Army Airstrip in Jaji the five personnel connived and allegedly disposed the VIP of the cash and absconded;

Also worried that the statement though admitting the incidence, refuted the exact amount carted away by the soldiers and also claimed ignorance of the exact amount, exonerating the 8 Division of the Nigeria Army and its GOC Major General H. O. Otiki;

Concerned that the statement said the incident was uncommon, embarrassing, obnoxious and painful. Only the VIP knows the total amount involved and can disclose it;

Cognizant that the Nigeria Army constituted a High Powered Committee to holistically, thoroughly and decisively investigate the sad incident for record and posterity; and report to all Nigeria Army formations and units and the general public for awareness and possible arrest of the culprits;

Notes that the five personnel all attached from the Infantry Corps Centre Jaji Are: CPL Gabriel Oluwaniyi, CPL Mohammed Aminu, LCPL Commander Haruna, LCPL Oluji Joshua and LCPL Hayatudeen;

Also notes that the circumstances surrounding the incidence are unclear, like why a large amount of cash will be transported by road and not using the banks, why would cash be moved from sokoto to Abuja via kaduna and not vice-versa. What is the source of the money, what is its purpose, who is this undisclosed very important personality (VIP) and who owns the money;

Worried that in these times of insecurity, banditry, kidnapping, insurgency and other crimes in the country it would be dangerous to leave this very grave incident unattended to and imminent to unravel the circumstances surrounding it;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalarabe — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the Nigeria Army in a press release signed by Col. Sagir Musa the acting director of Army Public Relations on the 15 July, 2019 titled, "RE: Nigerian Soldiers on escort duty abscond with billions of Naira";

Also aware that the press release stated that five personnel of "operation Harbin Kunama III" based in Sokoto were detailed on 11 July, 2019 at about 1500 hours (3 p.m.) to escort a VIP with a large amount of cash to kaduna, a distance of about 400 kilometers;

Worried that on arrival at the Nigeria Army Airstrip in Jaji the five personnel connived and allegedly disposed the VIP of the cash and absconded;

Also worried that the statement though admitting the incidence, refuted the exact amount carted away by the soldiers and also claimed ignorance of the exact amount, exonerating the 8 Division of the Nigeria Army and its GOC Major General H. O. Otiki;

Concerned that the statement said the incident was uncommon, embarrassing, obnoxious and painful. Only the VIP knows the total amount involved and can disclose it;

Cognizant that the Nigeria Army constituted a High Powered Committee to holistically, thoroughly and decisively investigate the sad incident for record and posterity; and report to all Nigeria Army formations and units and the general public for awareness and possible arrest of the culprits;

Noted that the five personnel all attached from the Infantry Corps Centre Jaji Are; CPL Gabriel Oluwaniyi, CPL Mohammed Aminu, LCPL Commander Haruna, LCPL Oluji Joshua and LCPL Hayatudeen;

Also notes that the circumstances surrounding the incidence are unclear, like why a large amount of cash will be transported by road and not using the banks, why would cash be moved from Sokoto to Abuja via Kaduna and not vice-versa. What is the source of the money, what is its purpose, who is this undisclosed very important personality (VIP) and who owns the money;

Worried that in these times of insecurity, banditry, kidnapping, insurgency and other crimes in the country it would be dangerous to leave this very grave incident unattended to and imminent to unravel the circumstances surrounding it;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 50/07/2019**).

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Circumstances of the Alleged Abscondment by Five Nigerian Soldiers of the Operation Harbin Kunama III with Large Amount of Cash (HR. 50/07/2019):

Mr Speaker announced the Committee as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|---|----------|
| (1) | Hon. Aminu Sulaiman | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Darlington Nwokocha | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Babajimi Benson | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. Zainab Gimba | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. John Dyegh | — | Member |
| (6) | Hon. Gregory Ofor | — | Member |
| (7) | Hon. Abdulganiyu Olododo | — | Member |
| (8) | Hon. Usman Bello Komo | — | Member |

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|------|---------------------------|---|--------|
| (9) | Hon. Tunji Ojo Olubunmi | — | Member |
| (10) | Hon. | — | Member |
| (11) | Hon. Onofiok Akpan Luke | — | Member |
| (12) | Hon. Ekpenyong Essien Ayi | — | Member |

(iv) ***Contract Staffing Policy by the Nigerian Gas Company:***

Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen (*Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

(v) ***Need to Tackle the Assault and Rape of Student by Teachers at the FCT School of the Blind, Jabi:***

Hon. Onuh Onyeche Blessing (*Ohimini/Otukpo Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Tackle the Assault and Rape of Student by Teachers at the FCT School of the Blind, Jabi:

The House:

Recalls that on Tuesday, 16 July, 2019, **Hon. Shina Abiola Peller** moved a motion on the floor of the House on the need to tackle the scourge of rape and other sexual offences against children in Nigeria;

Notes that less than 24 hours after the Resolution passed by the House on the rape of minors in this country, a worse form of rape and assault against blind girls was uncovered at the Federal Capital Territory School of the blind, Jabi District of the FCT;

Also notes that the FCT Administration officials who visited the school were shocked at the revelations made by the students and teachers over a blind teacher and one other visually impaired who regularly raped and assaulted girls at the school;

Concerned that a teacher in the school, one **Mr Ebenezer Olateju**, has since become infamous for leading the blind students into hotel rooms where he drugged them to sleep before raping them;

Aware that the school authority has confirmed six reported cases of rape by **Mr Ebenezer Olateju**;

Also aware that another blind teacher, **Mr Ilo Chukwuma**, was found to be notorious in fiddling with the breast and other sensitive parts of the blind girls' bodies;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn in strong terms the rape of blind underage female students by their teachers at the FCT School of the blind, Jabi;

- (ii) urge the relevant department of the Nigeria Police Force to carry out a thorough investigation into this matter; and
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the matter, make appropriate recommendations and report back (*Hon. Blessing Onyeche Onuh — Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

- (i) Leave out the Prayers (i), (ii) and (iii) and insert as follows:
“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the sad occurrence and report back” (*Hon. Herman Hembe — Konshisha/Vandeikya Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
“Mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee (when constituted) to adopt discrete investigative model as against normal parliamentary public hearing” (*Hon. Mohammed Shehu — Koko-Besse/Maiyamu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that on Tuesday, 16 July, 2019, **Hon. Shina Abiola Peller** moved a motion on the floor of the House on the need to tackle the scourge of rape and other sexual offences against children in Nigeria;

Noted that less than 24 hours after the Resolution passed by the House on the rape of minors in this country, a worse form of rape and assault against blind girls was uncovered at the Federal Capital Territory School of the blind, Jabi District of the FCT;

Also noted that the FCT Administration officials who visited the school were shocked at the revelations made by the students and teachers over a blind teacher and one other visually impaired who regularly raped and assaulted girls at the school;

Concerned that a teacher in the school, one **Mr Ebenezer Olateju**, has since become infamous for leading the blind students into hotel rooms where he drugged them to sleep before raping them;

Aware that the school authority has confirmed six reported cases of rape by **Mr Ebenezer Olateju**;

Also aware that another blind teacher, **Mr Ilo Chukwuma**, was found to be notorious in fiddling with the breast and other sensitive parts of the blind girls' bodies;

Resolved to:

- (i) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the sad occurrence and report back; and
- (ii) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee (when constituted) to adopt discrete investigative model as against normal parliamentary public hearing (**HR. 51/07/2019**).

6. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Energy Commission of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.243).
- (2) Mandatory Inclusion of Agricultural Science in Secondary Schools Curriculum in Nigeria Bill, 2019 (HB.244).
- (3) National Pest Control Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.245).
- (4) Hate Speech (Prohibition) Bill, 2019 (HB.246).
- (5) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2019 (HB.247).
- (6) Explosives Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.248).
- (7) Judgment Debt (Payment Guidelines) Bill, 2019 (HB.249).
- (8) Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.250).
- (9) National Institute for Electoral Studies (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.251).
- (10) Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account) (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.252).
- (11) Federal Medical Centre, Abakaliki (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 253).
- (12) Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.254).
- (13) Federal Medical Centre, Asaba (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.255).
- (14) Federal Medical Centre, Azare (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 256).
- (15) Federal Medical Centre, Bida (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.257).
- (16) Federal Medical Centre, Birni-Kebbi (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.258).
- (17) Federal Medical Centre, Birni-Kudu (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.259).
- (18) Federal Medical Centre, Ebute-Meta (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.260).
- (19) Federal Medical Centre, Yola (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.262).
- (20) Federal Medical Centre, Gusau (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.263).
- (21) Federal Medical Centre, Ado Ekiti (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.264).
- (22) Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.265).
- (23) Federal Medical Centre, Katsina (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.266).
- (24) Federal Medical Centre, Keffi (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.267).
- (25) Federal Medical Centre, Lokoja (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.268).
- (26) Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.269).
- (27) Federal Medical Centre, Nguru (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 270).

- (28) Federal Medical Centre, Owerri (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.271).
- (29) Federal Medical Centre, Owo (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.272).
- (30) Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 273).
- (31) Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 274).
- (32) Federal Medical Centre, Abakaliki (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.275).
- (33) Federal Medical Centre, Ogoja (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.276).
- (34) Federal Medical Centre, Onitsha, Anambra (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.277).
- (35) Indian Hemp Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 278).
- (36) Medical and Dental Practitioners Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.279).
- (37) Psychiatric Hospitals Management Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.280).
- (38) Peoples Bank of Nigeria Act (Repeal) Bill, 2019 (HB. 281).
- (39) National Eye Centre Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.282).
- (40) Food Drugs and Related Products (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.283).
- (41) Loans (State Development) (Repeal) Bill, 2019(HB. 284).
- (42) Medical Rehabilitation Therapist (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.285).
- (43) Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Kuru (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 286).
- (44) Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.287).

7. Presentation of Reports

- (i) *Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (ii) *Ad-hoc Committee on Ethics and Privileges:*

That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Ethics and Privileges

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- (iii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Crisis Surrounding the Inauguration of 9th Bauchi State House of Assembly and the Circumstances that led to the Emergence of Two Presiding Officers:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do Receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Crisis Surrounding the Inauguration of 9th Bauchi State House of Assembly and the Circumstances that led to the Emergence of Two Presiding Officers (HR. 11/07/2019)" (Hon. Musa Sarki Adar — Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **Rescission of the Title of the Petition by Adindu M. Ohima Daniel on Behalf of 1,123 others against Micheno Multipurpose Co-operative Society on the Regulatory and Supervisory Lapses in the Activities of the Promoters which led to the Mismanagement of about 30 Billion Naira Deposited by over 13,000 Direct Subscribers pursuant to Order One, Rule 1 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on 28 May, 2019 the recommendations of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Adindu M. Ohima Daniel on Behalf of 1,123 others against Micheno Multipurpose Co-operative Society on the Regulatory and Supervisory Lapses in the Activities of the Promoters of the Cooperative Society were considered and approved;

Also notes that the title of the report erroneously captured ₦30 million involving Micheno Multipurpose Co-operative Society and Adindu M. Ohima on behalf of 1,123 others;

Informed that the correct amount involved is ₦30 billion and not ₦30 million;

Resolves to:

Rescind its decision on the Petition by Adindu M. Ohima Daniel on Behalf of 1,123 others against Micheno Multipurpose Co-operative Society on the Regulatory and Supervisory Lapses in the Activities of the Promoters and commit same to the Committee of the Whole for reconsideration (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Chief Whip).

Agreed to.

9. **Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly, Pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives**

- (i) ***Terrorism (Prohibition and Prevention) Bill, 2019 (HB. 56);***
- (ii) ***Nigerian Peace Corps (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 17);***
- (iii) ***Chartered Institute of Treasury Management (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 57); and***
- (iv) ***National Commission for Refugees, Migrant and Internally Displaced Persons Bill, 2019 (HB. 171).***

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negatived or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negatived or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bills, upon being re-gazetted or clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;

Also notes that the aforementioned Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly;

Aware that the Bills were re-gazetted as HB. 56, HB. 17, HB. 57 and HB. 171 and read the first time;

Resolves to:

Commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

10. Rescission of the Resolution to Mandate the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Refugees and Initiatives on the North East (when constituted) on a Motion to Address the Worsening Plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and Returnees in Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Areas of Borno State, pursuant to Order Nine, Rule 1 (6) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on Thursday, 18 July, 2019, a Motion on Need to Address the Worsening Plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Returnees in Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Areas of Borno State was considered;

Aware that a Resolution was adopted to mandate the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugees and Initiatives on the North East Zone (when constituted) to ensure compliance;

Also aware that the humanitarian crisis in Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Areas of Borno State is worsening by the day and therefore requires urgent intervention to ameliorate the suffering of the people of the Areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) rescind its decision to mandate the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugees and Initiatives on North East Zone (when constituted) to ensure compliance, and replace same with:
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface with relevant Agencies as well as visit Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Areas of Borno State to ascertain the current humanitarian and infrastructural situation so as to proffer sustainable solutions to the crisis." (*Hon. Zainab Gimba — Bama/Ngala/Kala Balge Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

11. Call to Reinforce Security along Benin-Okada Road to Stem the Rise in Kidnappings and Robberies

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Section 33 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of Nigeria, 1999 provides that every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty;

Aware that the Benin-Okada Road in Edo State links the Southern and Northern parts of the country, hence the heavy vehicular movement on it daily which is now being taken advantage of by bandits who are robbing, kidnapping or killing travelers, most recent of which was Warrant Officer Felix Akanbi of the Nigerian Navy who was shot during a kidnapping incident, as well as others;

Acknowledges the efforts of the Government to ensure security along the nation's highways and the commitment in this regard was recently restated when the Government announced the deployment of more troops on the nation's roads to drastically reduce insecurity along those roads;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to devise measures that would ensure the security of lives of travelers along the Benin-Okada road, as well as other roads across the country;
- (ii) also call on the Inspector-General of Police to increase Police presence on the highway to forestall incidents of robberies and kidnappings on the highways;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs (when constituted) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Dennis Idahosa — Ovia North East/Ovia South West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to engage traditional rulers all over Nigeria, to stem the spate of crime, criminality, kidnapping, etc." (*Hon. Nnam-Obi Uche — Ahoada West/Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"Urge the Edo State Police Command to increase police presence on Benin - Okada road" (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 33 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of Nigeria, 1999 provides that every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty;

Aware that the Benin-Okada Road in Edo State links the Southern and Northern parts of the country, hence the heavy vehicular movement on it daily which is now being taken advantage of by bandits who are robbing, kidnapping or killing travelers, most recent of which was Warrant Officer Felix Akanbi of the Nigerian Navy who was shot during a kidnapping incident, as well as others;

Acknowledged the efforts of the Government to ensure security along the nation's highways and the commitment in this regard was recently restated when the Government announced the deployment of more troops on the nation's roads to drastically reduce insecurity along those roads;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to devise measures that would ensure the security of lives of travelers along the Benin-Okada road, as well as other roads across the country;
- (ii) also call on the Inspector-General of Police to increase Police presence on the highway to forestall incidents of robberies and kidnappings on the highways;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance;
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to engage traditional rulers all over Nigeria, to stem the spate of crime, criminality, kidnapping etc; and
- (v) also urge the Edo State Police Command to increase Police presence on Benin - Okada road (**HR. 52/07/2019**).

12. Need to Complete the Reconstruction of Gbongan-Iwo-Oyo Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the 32km Gbongan-Iwo-Oyo road links Osun and Oyo States in the South Western part of the country;

Recalls that sometime in 2011, the Federal Government awarded a contract worth ₦6.9 billion to Kopek Nigeria Limited for the reconstruction of the road;

Aware that the Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has paid about ₦2.5 billion to the contractor since 2017 and the contractor confirmed that as at 2018, the Federal Government was not owing the company;

Concerned that despite the full payment of the aforementioned sum to the contractor, the pace of work on the road is very slow and discouraging as asphalt overlay has stopped at Osunwoyin which is about 7 kilometers to Iwo in Osun State;

Informed that the road is not motorable between Iwo and Oyo, a situation that is adversely affecting inter-state transportation between Osun and Oyo States and is also hampering the movement of passengers and agricultural produce;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to prevail on the contractor to complete the reconstruction of Gbongan-Iwo-Oyo road without further delay; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works (when constituted) to interface with the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and Kopek Nig. Limited to determine the constraints in the completion of the project and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Amobi Yinusa Akintola — Ayedire/Iwo/Ola-Oluwa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 53/07/2019).

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

13. Menace of Gully Erosion in the South-East Geopolitical Zone

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria, like other Sub-Saharan African countries, is beset by serious environmental degradation resulting, among others, in soil erosion which is mainly due to very intensive rainfall;

Also notes that the torrential rainfall in South-Eastern Nigeria, coupled with the soil texture, creates an enabling environment for catastrophic soil erosion in the region;

Concerned that the soil erosion through gradual and constant dissection and desecration of the natural landscape is now the greatest threat to the environmental settings of South-Eastern Nigeria.;

Informed that about 1.8% of the entire land area of South-Eastern Nigeria is occupied by gullies, and this is very alarming for an area that has the highest population density of more than 500 persons per km² in Nigeria;

Also informed that Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency of Anambra State is home to numerous gully erosion sites littering the length and breadth of the constituency;

Mindful of the fact that with increased human activities and other adverse environmental changes, the magnitude of the gully sites in the region will increase;

Cognizant that the consequence of the gully erosion menace is loss of land for agriculture and habitation, and loss of lives and property, destruction of roads and separation of communities;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of finance to give priority attention to erosion control projects in the 2020 Budget proposal;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and other relevant Agencies to take a holistic and systematic approach in containing the gully erosion menace, particularly in Njikoka/Dunukofi/Anaocha Federal Constituency of Anambra State and Southeast geopolitical zone in general (*Hon. Valentine Ayika — Njikoka/Dunukofi/Anaocha Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 54/07/2019).

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

14. Deplorable State of Federal Roads Across the Country

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. Erosion Menace along Disina-Jama'Are River Bank in Shira Local Government Area of Bauchi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the loss of lives, properties and farmlands in the recent time as a result of persistent erosion along the Disina-Jama'are river bank that affects the people of Disina Town, Ajangara, Guddu, Kungo, Dango, Tsumba, Jalkatari, Malori, Gagidiba, Abarbawo Bakin Kogi, Abarbawo Kunshi, Agursa, Ganuwa and Majiyan Kaya Villages of Shira Local Government Area;

Also, notes that the ugly trend started in 2004 and reached its peak in 2018 as a result of excessive rainfall, wherein properties and farmlands worth several millions of naira were destroyed;

Aware that the larger part of Disina district which is located along the bank of Disina-Jama'are River has had a protracted history of environmental challenges, partly due to flooding;

Acknowledges that the Hadejia/Jama'are River Basin Development Authority and the Bauchi State Government have, in the last 15 years, done so much to control the disaster;

Informed that some of the resultant effects of the disaster was the cutting-off of the 27 kilometre Beli-Gagidiba-Zubo Rural Road at Abarbawa Village and the constant disruption of electricity supply along the 15 kilometre Beli-Zubo National grid line;

Cognizant that if the situation is not given the desired attention, it will continue to adversely affect the socio-economic activities of Shira Local Government Area and beyond;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to make a proposal in the 2020 Budget for construction of small dams along the Disina-Jama'are River Bank for irrigation farming and to ameliorate the suffering of the affected communities;
- (ii) also urge the Department of Rural Development of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to undertake repairs of the 27 kilometre Beli-Gagidiba-Zubo Rural road and replace the damaged electricity poles along the 15 kilometre Beli-Zubo national grid line;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials for the members of the communities;
- (iv) equally urge, the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) (Ecological Unit) to initiate a supplementary budget to include funds for commencement of work on the Disina-Jama'are River Bank and also make adequate provision in the 2020 budget estimates for the continuation/completion of the erosion work at the river bank;

- (v) request the Hadejia/Jama'are River Basin Development Authority to commence the dredging of Andiwa water point to ensure free flow of the river and avert the persistent flooding;
- (vi) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to inspect the affected areas, proffer a long time solution and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Kani Abubakar Faggo — Shira/Giade Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 55/07/2019).

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

16. Need to Reconstruct Rabah-Bakura Road to Address the Worsening Gully Erosion and Environmental Challenges facing Communities in Sokoto and Zamfara States

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Rabah-Bakura Road, which was constructed about 37 years ago, is an inter-state road traversing over 32 communities in Sokoto and Zamfara States and it is the only access road within the area for transportation of people and goods from Sokoto through to Zamfara State beyond;

Concerned about the deplorable state of the road due to over 20 years of neglect, which was worsened by recurrent flooding and gully erosion that has almost completely eroded the road and washed off adjoining houses;

Also concerned that the abandonment of the road has adversely affected the means of livelihood of the inhabitants of the communities;

Informed that the deplorable condition of the road has provided a safe haven for bandits, cattle rustlers and armed robbers to ravage the area and terrorize innocent citizens as security agents find it difficult to promptly respond to attacks due to the nature of the road;

Also informed that the perennial flooding and gully erosion have caused adverse environmental impact on the communities along the road including Rabah, Gubuwa, Kurya, Maikujera, Angamba, Kwargba, Rarah, Gandi, Dankarmawa, Badamwa and Lugu among other towns and villages, washing away houses and displacing over 1000 people;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to make adequate provisions in the 2020 budget estimates for the reconstruction of the Rabah-Bakura Road and rehabilitation of houses washed away by flood and gully erosion;
- (ii) also urge the Ecological Fund Office to intervene and ensure the refill and embankment of the affected towns and villages to enable land reclamation and resettlement of those displaced by gully erosion;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials for the affected and displaced people;

- (iv) mandate the Committees on Works, Appropriations, Environment and Habitat and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ibrahim Almustapha Aliyu — Wurno/Rabah Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 56/07/2019).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, Appropriations, Environment and Habitat and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

17. Need to Save the Multi-Million Naira Electrical Installations for Connection of Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that Kainji Dam, which is Nigeria's first hydro power plant, was commissioned in 1968 to, among others, generate electricity for the country;

Notes that in spite of the fact that Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency in Niger State hosts the Kainji Dam, only the towns of Wawa, Busa and Karabande which serve as headquarters of three wards in Borgu Local Government Area are connected to the National Grid while seventeen (17) wards, with a minimum of eighty communities in the Federal Constituency, are not connected;

Also notes that parts of Shagunu, Dugga, Papiri, Gallah, Kashini, Rofia, Adahe, Mago and Konkoso wards were provided with transformers and electrical fittings which had been fixed since 2003 but the wards have not been connected to the National Grid;

Cognizant that the huge amount of money spent in providing the electrical equipment and installations makes little or no meaning since the installations are frequently being vandalized while the communities remain in darkness despite the fact that 100 percent of the job had been done;

Concerned that the failure to provide electricity to the wards, especially those in the riverine areas exposes them to recurring hazards of boats capsizing resulting in loss of lives and flooding with severe destruction of farmlands, crops and death of animals;

Concerned that the failure to connect the wards to the National Grid has left the equipment vulnerable to being vandalized, thus making the Government of Niger State to spend huge sums of money to replace the vandalized equipment, as happened between 2018 - 2019 when the sum of ₦200 Million was spent to purchase new equipment to replace those that were vandalized;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to ensure the connection of Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency to the National Grid, especially areas where electrical installations have been completed;
- (ii) also urge the AEDC and the TCN to provide relevant infrastructure that will facilitate the connection of the remaining areas which have not been provided with electrical installations ; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure compliance (*Hon. Jafaru Mohammed — Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 57/07/2019).

Motion referred to the Committees on Power (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

18. Recurrent Communal Crisis between Agila Community of Benue State and Ngbo Community of Ebonyi State

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. Increasing Incidents of Sim Swap Fraud

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

20. Need to Investigate Federal Government's Abandoned Projects from 1999 - Date
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the alarming number of projects which were awarded to contractors by Federal Government Agencies, Parastatals, Ministries, Commissions and Boards from 1999 that have been abandoned;

Also notes that a large number of those projects estimated to be over 20,000, have received advanced payments of not less than 50% and other payments which in total, amount to billions of Naira;

Further notes that some of those abandoned projects include important establishments like dams, hospitals, buildings, bridges, steel companies, and access roads, like the East-West road, awarded in 2006 and yet to be completed after more than a decade;

Concerned that the abandoned projects have become pipes that drain Federal Government's funds due to the inflationary rate that obtains when Government decides to revive the projects many years after they were awarded;

Aware that even though this trend has been in vogue, there is need to change it if the nation is to have a meaningful development in terms of infrastructure and social services;

Also concerned that some of those abandoned projects are currently being occupied by hoodlums and miscreants who use them as abodes to plan their nefarious activities;

Believes in the vision of the current Administration to move the nation forward, hence the need to factor into future budgets funds to ensure the completion of those projects;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate abandoned projects from 1999 till date, the cost of award, period of award, the state of completion and constraints, and report back within three months for further legislative action (*Hon. Francis Charles Uduyok — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer and *insert* as follows:
“Set up the following *Ad-hoc* Committees to investigate abandoned projects from 1999 till date, the cost of award, period of award, the state of completion and constraints, and report back within three months:
- (i) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Works;
 - (ii) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Power;
 - (iii) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Water Resources;
 - (iv) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Health;
 - (v) *Ad-hoc* Committee on FERMA;
 - (vi) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC);
 - (vii) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Communication; and
 - (viii) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Education” (*Hon. Ndidi Godwin Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
“Mandate the relevant Committees to prioritize the projects and allocate enough funds to complete them within the life-span of this administration” (*Hon. Ganiyu Johnson — Oshodi Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the alarming number of projects which were awarded to contractors by Federal Government Agencies, Parastatals, Ministries, Commissions and Boards from 1999 that have been abandoned;

Also noted that a large number of those projects estimated to be over 20,000, have received advanced payments of not less than 50% and other payments which in total, amount to billions of naira;

Further noted that some of those abandoned projects include important establishments like dams, hospitals, buildings, bridges, steel companies, and access roads, like the East-West road, awarded in 2006 and yet to be completed after more than a decade;

Concerned that the abandoned projects have become pipes that drain Federal Government's funds due to the inflationary rate that obtains when Government decides to revive the projects many years after they were awarded;

Aware that even though this trend has been in vogue, there is need to change it if the nation is to have a meaningful development in terms of infrastructure and social services;

Also concerned that some of those abandoned projects are currently being occupied by hoodlums and miscreants who use them as abodes to plan their nefarious activities;

Believed in the vision of the current Administration to move the nation forward, hence the need to factor into future budgets funds to ensure the completion of those projects;

Resolved to:

- (i) set up the following *Ad-hoc* Committees to investigate abandoned projects from 1999 till date, the cost of award, period of award, the state of completion and constraints, and report back within three months:
 - (a) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Works,
 - (b) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Power,
 - (c) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Water Resources,
 - (d) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Health,
 - (e) *Ad-hoc* Committee on FERMA,
 - (f) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC),
 - (g) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Communication,
 - (h) *Ad-hoc* Committee on Education; and
- (ii) mandate relevant Committees to prioritize the projects and allocate enough funds to complete them within the life-span of this administration (**HR. 58/07/2019**).

21. Need to Rehabilitate the River Katsina-Ala Bridge in Benue State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that River Katsina-Ala bridge is located on trunk A344 road in Katsina-Ala town, the headquarters of Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State and harbours an important archaeological site where artefacts of the rich Nok culture were discovered;

Also notes that the bridge, which was constructed in 1976 by Sterling Astaldy, an Italian construction company long overdue for rehabilitation as it poses a serious threat to commuters plying the route which can easily be deduced from the incessant accidents that occur along the route resulting in loss of lives and properties and the deteriorated part of the bridge has become a den for criminals who take cover under the bridge to terrorize the communities of Katsina-Ala Ugbema Junction, Ikowe, Ayua and Abwa;

Informed that Zaki-Biam, the largest yam market in Africa, which is estimated to dispatch, on a daily basis, over a thousand truckloads of yams may be cut off from business due to the sorry state of the bridge;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently rehabilitate the River Katsina-Ala bridge to avoid its complete collapse and also reconstruct the road from Wukari-Zaki-Biam-Katsina-Ala-Gboko-Aliade-Otukpo-9th Mile to ameliorate the suffering of commuters; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Gbande Iorkyaan Richard — Katsina Ala/Logo/Ukum Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 59/07/2019).

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

22. Need to Re-Equip Igbobi Orthopaedic Hospital

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Orthopedic Hospital, Igbobi in Lagos State is the foremost Orthopedic Specialist Institution in Africa and the pioneering hospital in the field of Orthopedics, Plastic Surgery and Arthroplasty Sports Medicine in the West African sub-region;

Recalls that the hospital started as rehabilitation camp for wounded soldiers during the Second World War (WWII) in 1945;

Aware that this number one orthopedic hospital which was the foremost Orthopedics Institution in the country with a bed capacity to cater for about 450 in-patients can no longer meet with the demands of its teeming patients because its equipment are now obsolete;

Convinced that if this foremost Orthopedic Hospital is equipped with up to date modern medical equipment, it will regain its lost glory and be able to attract qualified surgeons who had left for other better equipped hospitals, thereby helping to reduce the number of amputees who turn to street beggars.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to embark on massive recruitment of specialist surgeons to enable the hospital meet the demands of its patients;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health to increase the number of defibrillators (light weight, battery operated portable device that checks and restored heart rhythm and shock);
- (iii) further urge the Management of Orthopedic Hospital, Igbobi to construct and equip a physiotherapy building with modern facilities that can stand the test of time and meet global practices and technologies;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Health Institutions and Healthcare Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kuye Ademorin Aliu — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (iii) immediately after the word "Igbobi", *insert* the words "National Orthopedic Hospital, Dala" and wherever it appears in the Motion,

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Orthopedic Hospital, Igbobi in Lagos State is the foremost Orthopedic Specialist Institution in Africa and the pioneering hospital in the field of Orthopedics, Plastic Surgery and Arthroplasty Sports Medicine in the West African sub-region;

Recalled that the hospital started as rehabilitation camp for wounded soldiers during the Second World War (WWII) in 1945;

Aware that this number one orthopedic hospital which was the foremost Orthopedics Institution in the country with a bed capacity to cater for about 450 in-patients can no longer meet with the demands of its teeming patients because its equipment are now obsolete;

Convinced that if this foremost Orthopedic Hospital is equipped with up to date modern medical equipment, it will regain its lost glory and be able to attract qualified surgeons who had left for other better equipped hospitals, thereby helping to reduce the number of amputees who turn to street beggars.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to embark on massive recruitment of specialist surgeons to enable the hospital meet the demands of its patients;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health to increase the number of defibrillators (light weight, battery operated portable device that checks and restored heart rhythm and shock);
- (iii) further urge the Management of Orthopedic Hospital, Igbobi, and National Orthopedic Hospital, Dala to construct and equip a physiotherapy building with modern facilities that can stand the test of time and meet global practices and technologies;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Health Institutions to ensure compliance (HR. 60/07/2019).

23. Need to Stop Industrial Hubs from Collapsing

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the administration of President Obasanjo embarked on a series of reforms to revamp the power sector with the enactment of the Electric Power Sector Reform (EPSR) Act, 2005 which led to the handling of National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN);

Also notes that the unbundling was to make electricity generation and supply available to consumers, making the sector investor friendly and dismantle NEPA's monopoly with Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), six electricity generating companies (GENCOs) and eleven Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) as successors during the administration of President Ebele Jonathan;

Aware that the Act also provided for the establishment of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) which is saddled with the regulation of tariffs and service quality, oversee the activities of the industry for efficiency and other responsibilities which NERC is disinclined to trail;

Cognizant that the DISCOs have prior knowledge of challenges (grid energy insufficiency and instability, tariff challenges and revenue shortfall, metering challenges, operational challenges, energy theft and network infrastructure challenges) facing PHCN before liquidation;

Worried that the electricity supply in terms of quality and coverage has remained very poor in Mushin and its environs despite the prior knowledge and huge budgeted amount enjoyed by DISCOs from the Federal Government;

Concerned that a sizeable part of Mushin I has been in total darkness for the past one year most especially Ilupeju Industrial Hub, one of the heartbeats of Lagos State economy is facing low electricity supply while those that enjoy epileptic supply of electricity are billed using guess-estimated bill;

Dismayed that the industrial hub of Lagos has turned shadow of itself as a result of the poor power electricity supply which has led to the collapsed of some industries and re-location of most of them to neighbouring countries like Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo thereby creating armies of unemployed youths;

Convinced that if the Federal Government could take a bold step by introducing Independent Power Producer (IPP)/Non-Utility Generator (NUG) as introduced in Onitsha Market in Enugu State and Sura Market in Lagos State respectively, these companies would be fully back in production;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of DISCOs as stipulated in the responsibility of the Commission in order to ameliorate the sufferings of the people;
- (ii) also urge IKED to install Independent Power Producer (IPP)/Non-Utility Generator (NUG) in Ilupeju Industrial Hub as it is done in Sura Market in Lagos State and Onitsha Market in Enugu State respectively;
- (iii) further urge the IKED to overhaul/change outdated and non-functional equipment's to justify the billing giving to the people;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure compliance (*Hon. Alli Adeyemi Taofeek — Mushin I Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word "Hub", *insert* as follows:

"Sharada Phase II and III in Kano, Bompai Industrial Hub in Kano State, and Kakuri Industrial Hub in Kaduna State" (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii) as amended, immediately after the words “Kaduna State”, *insert* as follows:
“Shomolu Industrial Hub” (*Hon. Kuye Ademorin Aliu— Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) In Prayer (ii) as amended, immediately after the words “Shomolu Industrial Hub”, *insert* as follows:
“Oluyole Industrial Estate, Ibadan, Oyo State” (*Hon. Muraina Saubana Ajibola — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the administration of President Obasanjo embarked on a series of reforms to revamp the power sector with the enactment of the Electric Power Sector Reform (EPSR) Act, 2005 which led to the handling of National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN);

Also noted that the unbundling was to make electricity generation and supply available to consumers, making the sector investor friendly and dismantle NEPA's monopoly with Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), six electricity generating companies (GENCOs) and eleven Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) as successors during the administration of President Ebele Jonathan;

Aware that the Act also provided for the establishment of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) which is saddled with the regulation of tariffs and service quality, oversee the activities of the industry for efficiency and other responsibilities which NERC is disinclined to trail;

Cognizant that the DISCOs have prior knowledge of challenges (grid energy insufficiency and instability, tariff challenges and revenue shortfall, metering challenges, operational challenges, energy theft and network infrastructure challenges) facing PHCN before liquidation;

Worried that the electricity supply in terms of quality and coverage has remained very poor in Mushin and its environs despite the prior knowledge and huge budgeted amount enjoyed by DISCOs from the Federal Government;

Concerned that a sizeable part of Mushin I has being in total darkness for the past one year most especially Ilupeju Industrial Hub, one of the heartbeats of Lagos State economy is facing low electricity supply while those that enjoy epileptic supply of electricity are billed using guess-estimated bill;

Dismayed that the industrial hub of Lagos has turned shadow of itself as a result of the poor power electricity supply which has led to the collapsed of some industries and re-location of most of them to neighbouring countries like Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo thereby creating armies of unemployed youths;

Convinced that if the Federal Government could take a bold step by introducing Independent Power Producer (IPP)/Non-Utility Generator (NUG) as introduced in Onitsha Market in Enugu State and Sura Market in Lagos State respectively, these companies would be fully back in production;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of DISCOS as stipulated in the responsibility of the Commission in order to ameliorate the sufferings of the people;
- (ii) also urge IKED to install Independent Power Producer (IPP)/Non-Utility Generator (NUG) in Ilupeju Industrial Hub as it is done in Sura Market in Lagos State and Onitsha Market in Enugu State, Sharada Phase II and III in Kano, Bompai Industrial Hub in Kano State, and Kakuri Industrial Hub in Kaduna State, Shomolu Industrial Hub, and Oluyole Industrial Estate, Ibadan, Oyo State respectively;
- (iii) further urge the IKED to overhaul/change outdated and non-functional equipment's to justify the billing giving to the people; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure compliance (HR. 61/07/2019).

24. Need to Investigate the Molestation of Pupils of the Deaf and Dumb School at Kuje, Abuja
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Punch Newspaper of 6 February, 2019 published a report on tension at the School for the Deaf and Dumb in the Kuje Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja by suspected cultists;

Also notes that the school, which accommodates little children, both boys and girls of between 5-6 years who are mostly defenseless and vulnerable, is being invaded regularly by cultists who abduct and molest the children;

Concerned that those children have special needs and cannot easily or freely communicate the abuses and other forms of ill treatment meted to them;

Aware that the Federal Ministry of Education had been intimated of the serious brutality and sodomy going on in the school and the Permanent Secretary led a delegation to the school which confirmed the incidents;

Also concerned that since concluding investigation into the matter by the Federal Ministry of Education, the Federal Capital Territory Administration and the Nigeria Police Force, no action has been taken on the matter;

Resolves to:

- (i) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the alleged molestation of pupils of the deaf and dumb school, to obtain first-hand information on the matter and also interface with the Federal Ministry of Education, the Federal Capital Territory Administration and the Nigeria Police Force on the outcome of their investigation into the matter;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police and the Commandant General of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps to provide adequate security in schools across the country to prevent such incidents from occurring or continuing to occur (*Hon. Mohammed Musa Pali — Alkaleri/Kirfi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Punch Newspaper of 6 February, 2019 published a report on tension at the School for the Deaf and Dumb in the Kuje Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja by suspected cultists;

Also noted that the school, which accommodates little children, both boys and girls of between 5-6 years who are mostly defenseless and vulnerable, is being invaded regularly by cultists who abduct and molest the children;

Concerned that those children have special needs and cannot easily or freely communicate the abuses and other forms of ill treatment meted to them;

Aware that the Federal Ministry of Education had been intimidated of the serious brutality and sodomy going on in the school and the Permanent Secretary led a delegation to the school which confirmed the incidents;

Also concerned that since concluding investigation into the matter by the Federal Ministry of Education, the Federal Capital Territory Administration and the Nigeria Police Force, no action has been taken on the matter;

Resolved to:

- (i) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the alleged molestation of pupils of the deaf and dumb school, to obtain first-hand information on the matter and also interface with the Federal Ministry of Education, the Federal Capital Territory; and
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police and the Commandant General of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps to provide adequate security in schools across the Country to prevent such incidents from occurring or continuing to occur (**HR. 62/07/2019**).

25. Need for a Clear Cut Policy to Check Nigeria's Rising Population

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with concern that fifty-eight years after political independence, rule, Nigeria is still struggling to find its footing as other nations that attained independence in the 1960s due to an ever increasing population without commensurate economic development;

Further notes that at independence Nigeria population was at 45.2 million according to available data from the National Bureau of Statistics, while Britain Population was 52.4 million, however, the current Nigeria population estimated at 200,980,215 Britain current population estimated to be 66,963,173, based on the United Nation estimation as at Sunday, 7 July, 2019, constituting a change of about 344.4% and 27.6% between 1960 and 2019 respectively;

Disturbed that Nigeria population is growing faster than its economy, with the current population growing rate, Nigeria GDP Per capital which was \$92.96 at independence currently stood at \$2,178, and as per world bank estimates makes it a poor country despite been African's largest economy, while that of Britain which was \$13,827 in 1960 is now \$42,986, and South Africa the second largest economy with a GDP per capital of \$433.94 in 1960, is now \$6,325, with that of Egypt the 3rd largest economy having a GDP of \$708 in 1960 currently stood at \$2,549, with over 80% of Nigerians still living below poverty level;

Aware that Nigeria is ranked 152nd among 188 nations in the global human development index of the United Nation program; also in terms of GDP per capital at nominal values, Nigeria is ranked 131st by IMF, 128th by World Bank and 133rd by United Nation respectively;

Also aware that over the years in Nigeria, numerous brilliant policies have been formulated with population policy inclusive, but no apparent and significant development to show for that as evidenced by the fact that Nigeria has continued to remain in the category of the least developed country of the world;

Worried that development economists have for long argued that developing countries must control their population to achieve higher per capital income growth rate, improve the quality of life of citizens, transits to industrial age and that the GDP must expand at a higher rate to improve human development indexes;

Also worried that a further projection by the United Nation Development, Programme put Nigerian population in 2050 at over 400million, thereby placing it at a very precarious situation;

Observes that China and India have proved that the greatest wealth of a country is its people, by transiting from a poor agrarian economy to becoming the world second and seventh largest economy using their large pool of cheap labour to mass produce agricultural, mineral and consumer goods;

Concerned that according to the latest statistics, Nigeria has been adjudged as the country with the largest number of people living in extreme poverty, with half of her population living with less than \$1.90 a day with the population boom not abating;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to come up with a conscious and a clear cut policy to check the rising and alarming rate of Nigeria Population;
- (ii) urge the Government to aggressively move and re-energize its family planning program;
- (iii) also call on the Federal Government to invest in Agriculture, technology, human development and policy that will change the course of our economic development;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Population to ensure implementation (*Hon. Afolabi Rasheed Olalekan — Odo-Otin/Ifelodun/Boriye Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“Urge the Federal Government to properly fund the National Population Commission to carry out population census as at and when due” (*Hon. Adejoro Adogun — Akoko Southeast/Southwest Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows “urge the National Population Commission to make registration of births and deaths compulsory in the country” (*Hon. Adejoro Adogun — Akoko Southeast/Southwest Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*
"Urge the Federal Government through the Nigerian Population Commission to urgently conduct census" (*Hon. Magaji Da'u Aliyu — Birnin-Kudu/Buji Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert a new Prayer (viii) as follows:*
"Urge Nigerian to embrace family planning measures and cut their clothes according to their sizes as to the number of children they can carter for" (*Hon. Muraina Saubana Ajibola — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (v) *Insert a new Prayer (viii) as follows:*
"Urge the Federal Government to defend and protect the Nigerian borders as foreign infiltration is affecting the true figure of the nation's population" (*Hon. Victor Mela — Balanga/Biliri Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (vi) *Insert a new Prayer (ix) as follows:*
"Urge the Federal, State and Local Governments to invest in agriculture" (*Hon. Usman Zannah — Kaga/Gubio/Magumeri Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (vii) *Leave out Prayer (ii) (Hon. Usman Zannah — Kaga/Gubio/Magumeri Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (viii) *Insert a new Prayer (ix) as follows:*
"Urge the Federal Government to vigorously pursue the girls child education across the country" and renumber accordingly (*Hon. Haruna Mshelia — Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern that fifty-eight years after political independence, rule, Nigeria is still struggling to find its footing as other nations that attained independence in the 1960s due to an ever increasing population without commensurate economic development;

Further noted that at independence Nigeria population was at 45.2 million according to available data from the National Bureau of Statistics, while Britain Population was 52.4 million, however, the current Nigeria population estimated at 200,980,215 Britain current population estimated to be 66,963,173, based on the United Nation estimation as at Sunday, 7 July, 2019, constituting a change of about 344.4% and 27.6% between 1960 and 2019 respectively;

Disturbed that Nigeria population is growing faster than its economy, with the current population growing rate, Nigeria GDP Per capital which was \$92.96 at independence currently stood at \$2,178, and as per world bank estimates makes it a poor country despite been African's largest economy, while that of Britain which was \$13,827 in 1960 is now \$42,986, and South Africa the

second largest economy with a GDP per capital of \$433.94 in 1960, is now \$6,325, with that of Egypt the 3rd largest economy having a GDP of \$708 in 1960 currently stood at \$2,549, with over 80% of Nigerians still living below poverty level;

Aware that Nigeria is ranked 152nd among 188 nations in the global human development index of the United Nation program, also in terms of GDP per capital at nominal values, Nigeria is ranked 131st by IMF, 128th by World Bank and 133rd by United Nation respectively;

Further aware that over the years in Nigeria, numerous brilliant policies have been formulated with population policy inclusive, but no apparent and significant development to show for that as evidenced by the fact that Nigeria has continued to remain in the category of the least developed country of the world;

Worried that development economists have for long argued that developing countries must control their population to achieve higher per capital income growth rate, improve the quality of life of citizens, transits to industrial age and that the GDP must expand at a higher rate to improve human development indexes;

Further worried that a further projection by the United Nation Development, Programme put Nigerian population in 2050 at over 400million, thereby placing it at a very precarious situation;

Observed that China and India have proved that the greatest wealth of a country is its people, by transiting from a poor agrarian economy to becoming the world second and seventh largest economy using their large pool of cheap labour to mass produce agricultural, mineral and consumer goods;

Concerned that according to the latest statistics, Nigeria has been adjudged as the country with the largest number of people living in extreme poverty, with half of her population living with less than \$1.90 a day with the population boom not abating;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to come up with a conscious and a clear cut policy to check the rising and alarming rate of Nigeria Population;
- (ii) also call on the Federal Government to invest in Agriculture, technology, human development and policy that will change the course of our economic development;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Population to ensure implementation;
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to properly fund the National Population Commission to carry out population census as at and when due;
- (v) also urge the National Population Commission to make registration of births and deaths compulsory in the country;
- (vi) further urge the Federal Government through the Nigerian Population Commission to urgently conduct census;
- (vii) still urge the Federal Government to defend and protect the Nigerian borders as foreign infiltration is affecting the true figure of the nation's population;
- (viii) again urge the Federal, State and Local Governments to invest in agriculture; and
- (ix) urge the Federal Government to vigorously pursue the girl-child education across the country (HR. 63/07/2019).

26. **Menace of Harassment and Extortion by Officers of the Nigerian Customs Service on the Highways**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the core mandate of the Nigerian Customs services is the collection of the import and excise duties and counting for the same and prevention and suppression of smuggling of goods which are on the prohibited list into the country;

Also notes the recurrent complaints by vehicle owners and car dealers over harassment and extortionist activities of customs personnel on highways across the country under the pretext that either some of the vehicles were smuggled into the country without the payment of accurate Tarff duties or levies at the time of clearing and then proceed to seize the vehicles even when evidence has been shown that the duties or levies were paid or that the vehicles were lawfully purchases or that they had underpaid the tariffs, duties or levies;

Again notes that in a bid to curb the activities of smugglers, the service posts its personnel on spots along the nation`s highways where they routinely stop vehicles and trucks transporting goods to various parts of the country for searching to determine whether they were carrying any prohibited goods that had been smuggled into the country; and even for vehicles that may have been brought into the country illegally;

Further notes that in the cause of carrying out those searches along the highway, personnel and extortion by traders and motorists conveying goods and vehicles, and where they refuse to give into the demands of the customs personnel, the trucks conveying the goods or the vehicles are delayed for days and which exposes the victims to attacks by robbers and incurring avoidable losses;

Informed that following public outing on the extortionist activities of its personnel on the highways, the service set up federal operations units and task force points at a plethora of destinations across the country to monitor and curb illegal activities of its personnel posted on the highways to combat smuggling, but who were being alleged to have turn the opportunity into avenues to harass and extort people;

Concerned that even some officials posted to those operations units and task force points are being accused of participating in the high level intimidation and extortion, having abandoned their core functions;

Cognizant of the fact that it will be of an overarching public benefit to stamp out those extortionist activities of personnel of the customs service, or indeed remove those check points on the highways and take them to the nation's border crossing and airports, which are the proper point to mount check points;

Also informed that the ripple effects of this menace reflects on the economic development of the economy, as the traders are forced to sell their goods at exorbitant rate in order to cover all or some of the losses incurred, either from direct extortion by corrupt customs officials or losses incurred in a bid to escape extortion routes that have fewer checkpoints;

Resolve to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria customs service to ensure that it is only vehicles that their duties have been fully paid are cleared; and

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise to investigate the allegation of harassment of vehicles owners and cars dealers by customs personnel at the highways across the country and ensure that the perpetrators are punished and also cause the operations of the customs personnel to be restricted to the seaports, airports and land borders (*Hon. Okwudili Christopher E. — Orumba North/Orumba South Federal Constituency and 7 others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (ii), line 3, immediately after the word “punished”, *leave out* all the other words (*Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Agwu/Oji-River Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Urge the Nigerian Customs to reduce the enforcement units within the service from three to one” (*Hon. Abejide Leke Joseph — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (iii) *Insert* Prayer (iii), as follows:
“Urge the Nigerian Customs Service to employed technology to give uptimal checks on goods and services in the country” (*Hon. Mwakwon Simon Davou — Barkin Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion as amended — Negatived.

27. Consideration of Report

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Crisis Surrounding the Inauguration of 9th Bauchi State House of Assembly and the Circumstances that led to the Emergence of Two Presiding Officers: Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Crisis Surrounding the Inauguration of 9th Bauchi State House of Assembly and the Circumstances that led to the Emergence of Two Presiding Officers and approve the recommendations therein”(*Hon. Musa Sarki Adar — Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

“Condemn the unfortunate incidents that led to the purported elections of two different Members-elect as Speakers of the 9th Bauchi State House of Assembly, either by the group of 11 Members-elect, or the group of 18 Members-elect without following due process and proper legislative practice” (*Hon. Musa Sarki Adar — Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

"Urge the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, in the interest and well-being of the people of Bauchi State, to withdraw the letters of Proclamation of 17 June, 2019 and 20 June, 2019; and reissue a new Proclamation Letter for Holding of the First Session of the 9th Bauchi State House of Assembly, which will be publicized in National Dailies and Broadcast Media, with specific Date, Time and Venue for the inauguration" (*Hon. Musa Sarki Adar — Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

"Notify the Bauchi State Government that failure to comply with Prayer (ii) above, within a period of one month, the House of Representatives shall invoke the provisions of Section 11 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)" (*Hon. Musa Sarki Adar — Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

"Transmit this Resolution to the Senate for concurrence" (*Hon. Musa Sarki Adar — Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee to Investigate the Crisis Surrounding the Inauguration of 9th Bauchi State House of Assembly and the Circumstances that led to the Emergence of Two Presiding Officers and approved recommendations (i) - (iv) of the Report.

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

28. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 25 July, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.26 p.m.

Idris Ahmed
Deputy Speaker