



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 9 October, 2019

1. The House met at 11.42 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.

2. The House recited the National Pledge

3. **Votes and Proceedings**

Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 8 October, 2019.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
(i) ***Need to Ensure Speedy Rehabilitation of Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu:***
Hon. Toby Okechukwu (Aninri/Awgu/Oji-River Federal Constituency and 30 others) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

(b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Ensure Speedy Rehabilitation of Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu:

The House:

Notes that on August 24, 2019, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) closed down Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu to allow for rehabilitation works on the runway;

Aware that the Minister of Aviation visited Enugu and after a meeting with Governors and stakeholders in the South East, affirmed that the rehabilitation would be completed by December 2019;

Concerned that six (6) weeks after the closure, no rehabilitation work has begun at the airport even as there is no indication that the contractor would mobilize to site any time soon as there are strong indications that money have not been released for the rehabilitation work;

Also concerned that major arterial routes leading to other alternate airports or leading to the southeast have dilapidated and burdens the travelling public;

Worried that the closure of the airport has exposed the travelling public to avoidable inconveniences and is frustrating their ease of doing business;

Convinced that the funding model for the renovation of Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja would save Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu from protracted closure;

Recognizing that Akanu Ibiam International Airport is critical to the safety, economic and social lives of many travelers;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the President of Nigeria to intervene and ensure immediate commencement of works at the Airport;
- (iii) also call on the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to, in the interim, expedite repairs of the major roads leading to alternative routes and airports in the South East to alleviate the suffering of members of the public; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Aviation to interface with the Minister of Aviation to ensure immediate commencement of works at the airport (*Hon. Toby Okechukwu —Aninri/Agwu/Oji River Federal Constituency and 30 Others*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 122/10/2019).

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

- (ii) ***Abduction of Six Female Students and Two Staff of Engravers College, Kakau Daji Village in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State:***
Hon. Yakubu Umar Barde (*Chikun/Kajuru 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.

Abduction of Six Female Students and Two Staff of Engravers College, Kakau Daji Village in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State:

The House:

Notes that at about 12.00 midnight on Thursday, 3 October, 2019, armed men gained entry into the Engravers College, a boarding secondary school located at Kakau Daji Village in Chikun LGA along Kaduna-Abuja Highway and abducted six female students and two members of staff of the college and took them to an unknown location;

Informed that the abductors, two days later contacted the school authority and demanded for the sum of ₦50 million as ransom for the abductees;

Aware that as a result of the difficult economic situation in the country, the parents of the students and the school authority have not been able to raise the money;

Also aware that the Kaduna State Government, in collaboration with security agencies, has mobilised personnel to the area in a bid to rescue the victims who have remained in the custody of those armed and heartless men for over six (6) days;

Recalls that armed men had, in the last few years, carried out countless abductions along the Kaduna -Abuja highway for ransom and in some cases, killed some of the victims, but with the reduced vehicular traffic along that expressway due to massive shift to rail transportation, it appears the Kidnapping business has taken another dimension where they are now going to schools and communities along the highway, and could later resort to abducting people from their homes;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the security agents to intensify their efforts in the search for the abductees for rescue, and ensure arrest of the kidnappers;
- (ii) also urge various Governments and proprietors of private schools to beef up security at public and private schools to secure the students; and
- (iii) further urge the National Orientation Agency to mobilize Nigerians to become more security conscious and report any suspicious movements in their environments to security agency (*Hon. Yakubu Umar Barde — Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that at about 12.00 midnight on Thursday, 3 October, 2019, armed men gained entry into the Engravers College, a boarding secondary school located at Kakau Daji Village in Chikun LGA along Kaduna-Abuja Highway and abducted six female students and two members of staff of the college and took them to an unknown location;

Informed that the abductors, two days later contacted the school authority and demanded for the sum of ₦50 million as ransom for the abductees;

Aware that as a result of the difficult economic situation in the country, the parents of the students and the school authority have not been able to raise the money;

Also aware that the Kaduna State Government, in collaboration with security agencies, has mobilised personnel to the area in a bid to rescue the victims who have remained in the custody of those armed and heartless men for over six (6) days;

Recalled that armed men had, in the last few years, carried out countless abductions along the Kaduna -Abuja highway for ransom and in some cases, killed some of the victims, but with the reduced vehicular traffic along that expressway due to massive shift to rail transportation, it appears the Kidnapping business has taken another dimension where they are now going to schools and communities along the highway, and could later resort to abducting people from their homes;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the security agents to intensify their efforts in the search for the abductees for rescue, and ensure arrest of the kidnappers;
- (ii) also urge various Governments and proprietors of private schools to beef up security at public and private schools to secure the students; and
- (iii) further urge the National Orientation Agency to mobilize Nigerians to become more security conscious and report any suspicious movements in their environments to security agency (HR. 123/10/2019).

Motion referred to the Committee on Police Affairs.

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. Onuh Onyeche Blessing — Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

- (iii) *Need to Investigate the Abandonment of Ahmadu Bello Way in Otukpo, Benue State:*
Hon. Onuh Onyeche Blessing (Otukpo/Ohimini 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 Abandonment of Ahmadu Bello Way in Otukpo, Benue State:

The House:

Notes that the role of road infrastructure is to enhance the economic potentials of a country and enable smooth transportation of people and goods from one part to the other;

Aware of the poor state of the rail system in the country and the abysmal state of the inland water ways, road transportation is virtually the only alternative mode of movement;

Also notes that Ahmadu Bello Road passes through the commercial city of Otukpo, and is the major artery linking Otukpo, Alaide and Makurdi in the Northern part of the country, and Enugu in the Eastern part;

Concerned that despite payments made to the contractor handling the road project, about 6km of the road in Otukpo was abandoned, making it inaccessible and causing high traffic that is leading to avoidable accidents that result in loss of lives and properties;

Also concerned that the absence of an alternative route has adversely affected the economic activities in Otukpo town and its environs, especially in a State like Benue which is known as the food basket of the nation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to, as a matter of urgency, commence rehabilitation of Ahmadu Bello Way to ease transportation of commuters and goods;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to investigate the abandonment of the Ahmadu Bello Way Road project in Otukpo; and
- (iii) observe a minute silence in honour of those that have lost their lives in accidents as a result of the bad state of the road (*Hon. Blessing Onyeche Onuh — Ohimini/Otukpo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 124/10/2019).

Motion referred to the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

5. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) National Metallurgical Training Institute, Onitsha, Bill, 2019 (HB. 356).
- (2) Climate Change Bill, 2019 (HB.357).
- (3) Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.358).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2019 (HB.359).
- (5) National Youth Service Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.360).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2019 (HB. 361).
- (7) Federal Roads Bill, 2019 (HB.362).
- (8) Federal College of Education, Gbongan (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.363).
- (9) Directors and Permanent Secretaries Tenure Limit Bill, 2019 (HB.364).

- (10) Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.365).
 - (11) Nigerian National Heroes Bill, 2019 (HB.366).
 - (12) National Roads Fund Bill, 2019 (HB.367).
 - (13) National Security Agencies Bill, 2019 (HB.368).
 - (14) Explosives Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2019 (HB.369).
 - (15) Execution of Federal Projects Bill, 2019 (HB.370).
 - (16) National Health Insurance Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2019 (HB.371).
 - (17) Maritime University, Okerenkoko (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.372).
 - (18) Institute of Transport Administration of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.373).
 - (19) Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists (Registration, etc.) Bill, 2019 (HB.374).
 - (20) Chartered Institute of Human Capital Development of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.375).
 - (21) Federal Polytechnic, Creek Town, Odukpani (Establishment Etc.) Bill, 2019 (HB.376).
 - (22) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2019 (HB.377).
 - (23) Nigerian Transportation Accident Investigation Bureau (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.378).
 - (24) Judgment Debt (Payment Guidelines) Bill, 2019 (HB. 379).
 - (25) United Nations Convention on Arms Trade Treaty Bill, 2019 (HB. 380).
 - (26) Federal Polytechnic, Koko, (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 381).
6. **A Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of ₦10,330,416,607,347 (Ten Trillion, Three Hundred and Thirty Billion, Four Hundred and Sixteen Million, Six Hundred and Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Seven Naira) only, of which ₦556,700,827,235 (Five Hundred and Fifty-Six Billion, Seven Hundred Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Five Naira) only, is for Statutory Transfers, ₦2,748,598,930,000 (Two Trillion, Seven Hundred and Forty-Eight Billion, Five Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Naira) only, is for Debt Service, ₦4,880,309,549,778 (Four Trillion, Eight Hundred and Eighty Billion, Three Hundred and Nine Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Eight Naira) only, is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure, while the sum of ₦2,144,807,300,334 (Two Trillion, One Hundred and Forty-Four Billion, Eight Hundred and Seven Million, Three Hundred Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty-Four Naira) only, is for contribution to the Development Fund for Capital Expenditure for the year ending 31 December, 2020 (HB. 355) — Second Reading**
- Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of ₦10,330,416,607,347 (Ten Trillion, Three Hundred and Thirty Billion, Four Hundred and Sixteen Million, Six Hundred and Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Seven Naira) only, of which ₦556,700,827,235 (Five Hundred and Fifty-Six Billion, Seven Hundred Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Five Naira) only, is for Statutory Transfers, ₦2,748,598,930,000 (Two Trillion, Seven Hundred and Forty-Eight Billion, Five Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million, Nine Hundred and

Thirty Thousand, Naira) only, is for Debt Service, ₦4,880,309,549,778 (Four Trillion, Eight Hundred and Eighty Billion, Three Hundred and Nine Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Eight Naira) only, is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure, while the sum of ₦2,144,807,300,334 (Two Trillion, One Hundred and Forty-Four Billion, Eight Hundred and Seven Million, Three Hundred Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty-Four Naira) only, is for contribution to the Development Fund for Capital Expenditure for the year ending 31 December, 2020 (HB. 355) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

Debate.

First Allotted day.

Debate adjourned.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Primary Health Care Development Agency Act, Cap. N69, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 39) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Education Research and Development Council Act, Cap. N105, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 84) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

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) **Nigerian Institute of Agriculturist Bill, 2019 (HB. 104);**
- (ii) **Donkey Export and Killings (Prohibition) Bill, 2019(HB. 108);**
- (iii) **Federal College of Education (Special) Birnin Kudu (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 169);**
- (iv) **Federal Polytechnic, Kwale, (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (296);**
- (v) **National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 351);**
- (vi) **Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria Bill, 2019 (HB. 353);**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, 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 was 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.104, HB.108, HB.169, HB.296, HB.351 and HB.353 respectively and read the first time;

Resolves to:

Commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Ababakar Hassan Fulata — Birninwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

10. Flood Disaster in Bursari, Geidam and Yunusari Local Government Areas of Yobe State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that as at August 2019, heavy rainfall and consequent flood had led to the destruction of no fewer than 500 Houses and several farmlands across Bursari, Geidam and Yunusari Local Government Areas of Yobe State;

Also notes that the flood destroyed schools and livestock and the persistent rainfall also resulted in mudslide which destroyed several villages and rendered thousands of people homeless;

Aware that the areas more adversely affected by flooding include Yunusari town, Kanamma town, Ngamma village and Dilala town in Yunusari Local Government Area, Geidam town, Kelluri town, Gumsa town and Borko, Damakarwa, ma' anna, Balle and Maladari villages in Geidam Local Government Area, and Dapchi town, Tarbutu, Ilela and Gansawa villages in Bursari Local Government Area;

Also aware that the people of Bursari, Geidam and Yunusari Local Government Areas depend mostly on farming for their daily livelihood;

Worried that as a result of the persistent heavy rainfall, streams have been flooded and foodstuff and other properties were washed away, thus causing the people to have to walk long distances in search of food and potable water;

Also worried that the situation has left the victims vulnerable to attacks and exposure to possible epidemic due to unsanitary living conditions and unsafe drinking water available to them;

Further worried that victims of the flood disaster are in distress as they lack shelter, food and water and their children are unable to go to school;

Cognizant that if urgent steps are not taken to help the flood victims, a potential famine looms, which could result in diseases and eventual loss of lives;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to, as a matter of urgency, provide shelter, household supplies, food, water, sanitation and medical services for the victims; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to visit the areas to conduct a needs assessment with a view to providing lasting solution that could forestall future occurrences, and ensure compliance with the aforementioned prayer (*Hon. Lawan Shettima Ali — Busari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 125/10/2019).

Motion referred to the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

11. Deplorable State of Government Owned Healthcare Facilities in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that the reasons adduced for the December 31, 1983 military coup were that Nigeria's economy was mismanaged, the country had become indebted and the health sector was in shambles as hospitals had been reduced to mere consulting clinics without drugs, water and health equipment to function optimally;

Aware that 35 years after, including 19 years of democratic rule, investigations carried out across the country revealed that not much has changed in the nation's public health sector as most public health centres are in deplorable states of being ill-equipped, understaffed and underfunded;

Concerned that Nigerians are losing faith in the public health sector as most Government facilities are in bad shape and emergency units are barely equipped to respond to critical situations, thus causing privileged Nigerians to seek treatment outside the country;

Cognizant that the decay in the nation's health sector calls for a re-evaluation of the annual budgetary allocation to the sector, which is barely sufficient for adequate provision of medical facilities and maintenance;

Regrets that the National Health Act which was aimed at establishing a framework for the regulation, development and management of the National Health System and setting standards for rendering health services and other related matters has neither achieved the cardinal objective of Universal Health Coverage in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) nor brought about any significant change;

Also regrets that the deplorable state of the health sector is a clear indication that the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) has not been faithfully implemented, given that the 1% basic health care provision fund from the Consolidated Revenue Fund ought to have brought about a significantly improved health sector, including manpower development;

Worried that despite public outcry, the menace still prevails as 40 per cent of medical doctors in Nigeria are still jobless despite the call on the Federal Government by the Nigeria Medical Association to employ capable medical personnel to reduce mortality rates in the country;

Also cognizant that the sordid state of Nigeria's health institutions could be attributable to financial leakages, gross managerial ineptitude and corruption;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to increase the annual budgetary allocations to the Health Sector from 5% to 15% as had been pledged by successive Governments in order to curb unnecessary deaths caused by the failing health system; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, and Healthcare Services to ensure compliance (Hon. Ntufam Eta Mbora — Calabar Municipal/Odukpani Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

(HR. 126/10/2019).

Motion referred to the Committees on Health Institutions, and Healthcare Services, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

12. Deplorable State of Roads in Nigeria

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. Call for Rehabilitation of Ugboju-Onyangede-Ankpa Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the vital role of transportation to the well-being and economic development of a country and its citizens;

Aware of the poor state of the rail system in the country and the absence of developed in-land water ways which makes road transportation the only alternative;

Observes that Ugboju-Onyangede-Ankpa road, a 60 kilometers stretch Trunk 'A' road linking Benue, Kogi and other North Central States and the Federal Capital Territory is the major route for transportation of agricultural produce and other essential goods in the area;

Also aware that the road was constructed in 1996, and has never undergone any maintenance or rehabilitation despite the heavy traffic on it daily, and thus its continuous deterioration, which has made accidents rife, with loss of lives and properties;

Disturbed that armed robbers and other criminals have continued to carry-out their dastardly acts on commuters at the dilapidated portions on the road, thereby causing mayhem on people plying the road;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to reconstruct the road and the bridges along the road;*
- (ii) also urge Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to carry out urgent repairs of the affected portions pending its reconstruction; and*
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to make provisions in the 2020 budget estimates for the reconstruction of the road (Hon. Onuh Onyeche Blessing — Ohimini/Otukpo Federal Constituency).*

Agreed to.

(HR. 127/10/2019).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Appropriations, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

14. Call for Rehabilitation of Unity Schools Across Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that 104 Unity schools were established by the Federal Government across the country to guarantee national integration and nation building among Nigerian children by giving them the opportunity at a very tender age to live and learn together in an ideal educational environment;

Cognizant that the Unity Schools have fulfilled those objectives over the years, by producing men and women with broad-mindset from various backgrounds and culture with a common bond of unity that transcends tribalism and ethnicity;

Aware that the Unity schools have, over the years, been reputed for high standards of moral training, academic excellence, a habitable and enabling environment and an up-to-date learning facilities, but regrets that those high standards have, in recent years, faded;

Also aware that statistics indicate that the number of students who enroll for entrance examinations into the Unity Schools has drastically reduced, with recent records showing a steady and yearly decline in the number of candidates sitting for the examinations into the Unity Schools;

Concerned that the parlous state of those once famous Institutions of first choice for parents means that the Unity Schools have lost their appeal due to poor funding and lack of maintenance and supervision;

Worried that the nation's desire to promote unity, harmony and a collective spirit of nation building by inculcating the ethos of national integration into Nigerian children at a very young age will become a mirage if the general conditions of Unity Schools are not improved.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Education to work out modalities towards the complete overhaul of Unity Schools in Nigeria and report back in six (6) weeks (*Hon. Valentine Ayika Ogbonna,— Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 128/10/2019).

Motion referred to the Committee on Basic Education and Services, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

15. Reconstruction of Anambra-Enugu-Mamnu River Bridge

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the 9Km Road from Ufuma Junction through Enugwuabo to Mamnu River Bridge links Anambra State to Enugu State;

Also notes that the Federal Government awarded a contract for reconstruction of the road from NkwoInyi in Akpugoeze to Anambra State border while reconstruction work on the Enugu State part of the road is on the verge of completion;

Concerned that the axis between Inyi/Mamu River Bridge to Ufuma is in a deplorable condition and devastating to motorists and is adversely affecting interstate movement of passengers, livestock and other agricultural produce between Enugu and Anambra States;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to make provisions for reconstruction of the Anambra/Enugu States Border Road from Ufuma Junction to Mamu River Bridge in the 2020 Budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to ensure implementation (*Hon. Okwudili Christopher Ezenwankwo — Orumba North/Orumba South Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 129/10/2019).

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

16. **Increasing Trend of Copyright Piracy in Nigeria**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the greatest resource and bedrock of every civilization is its creativity, innovations and inventions, which boost the economy of any nation;

Also notes that the Copyright Act, 2004 provides for the definition, protection, transfer, infringement of, remedy and penalty for infringement of copyright in literal works, musical works, artistic works, cinematograph films, sound recordings, broadcast and other ancillary matters;

Aware that the goal of copyright protection is to encourage dissemination of information, provide employment and economic benefits for the owners, and reserve the ownership of the rights to the creators of the works;

Also aware that copyright exists in literary, musical and artistic works, films, sound recordings and broadcast, being an abstract property incorporated in a physical property, which confers on the owners the exclusive right to copy, reproduce, publish, distribute and adapt the works in any material form;

Worried that the rights have been constantly bastardised and infringed upon by unauthorized acts of reproduction and distribution on a commercial scale, called piracy, thereby rendering creativity unattractive and consequently, impacting negatively on the socio-economic and political lives of citizens;

Concerned that Copyright piracy is on the increase despite the establishment of government agencies such as the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) and the National Film and Video Censors Board that, in conjunction with the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigeria Customs and Excise, are mandated to carry out raids against pirates and their syndicates;

Further aware of the revelation by the NCC that Nigeria has, since 2013, been losing \$1 billion per annum to pirates who clone copyright works into CDs, DVDs, VCDs and other audio visual formats, and sell them at cheap prices through their distribution networks;

Also concerned about the disclosure by the Director General of the NCC, at an Intellectual Property Symposium organised by the United States Embassy, in collaboration with federal and private institutions, that Nigeria's creative sector was under threat from piracy and content counterfeiters;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to create a special unit to collaborate with the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) to curb copyright piracy in Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Justice to interface with the Executive-Secretary of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) with a view to finding how best the activities of copyright pirates can be checkmated (*Hon. Abdul Ganiyu S. Cook Olododo — Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the greatest resource and bedrock of every civilization is its creativity, innovations and inventions, which boost the economy of any nation;

Also noted that the Copyright Act, 2004 provides for the definition, protection, transfer, infringement of, remedy and penalty for infringement of copyright in literary works, musical works, artistic works, cinematograph films, sound recordings, broadcast and other ancillary matters;

Aware that the goal of copyright protection is to encourage dissemination of information, provide employment and economic benefits for the owners, and reserve the ownership of the rights to the creators of the works;

Also aware that copyright exists in literary, musical and artistic works, films, sound recordings and broadcast, being an abstract property incorporated in a physical property, which confers on the owners the exclusive right to copy, reproduce, publish, distribute and adapt the works in any material form;

Worried that the rights have been constantly bastardised and infringed upon by unauthorized acts of reproduction and distribution on a commercial scale, called piracy, thereby rendering creativity unattractive and consequently, impacting negatively on the socio-economic and political lives of citizens;

Concerned that Copyright piracy is on the increase despite the establishment of government agencies such as the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) and the National Film and Video Censors Board that, in conjunction with the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigeria Customs and Excise, are mandated to carry out raids against pirates and their syndicates;

Further aware of the revelation by the NCC that Nigeria has, since 2013, been losing \$1 billion per annum to pirates who clone copyright works into CDs, DVDs, VCDs and other audio-visual formats, and sell them at cheap prices through their distribution networks;

Also concerned about the disclosure by the Director General of the NCC, at an Intellectual Property Symposium organised by the United States Embassy, in collaboration with federal and private institutions, that Nigeria's creative sector was under threat from piracy and content counterfeiters;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to create a special unit to collaborate with the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) to curb copyright piracy in Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Justice to interface with the Executive-Secretary of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) with a view to finding how best the activities of copyright pirates can be checkmated (**HR. 130/10/2019**).

17. Call for Recruitment of Qualified and Registered Teachers in Nigerian Schools

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria Act, 2004 confers the Council with absolute powers to, among other things, determine who is a teacher, including registration of qualified teachers and regulating the teaching profession in Nigeria;

Also notes that Section 17 (2) of the Act provides that any person, not being a registered member of the profession who, among other things, practices as a professional teacher, shall be guilty of an offence;

Aware that the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria recently announced that about 300,000 out of the 700,000 teachers in Nigerian schools are not qualified to teach;

Concerned that the statistics provided by the Council revealed that approximately 50% of the total population of teachers in Nigeria are not qualified to teach, a development that is threatening the goal of education which can only be guaranteed by having qualified and experienced teachers in the education sector;

Also concerned about the abysmal level of enforcement of the Council's mandate in this regard, especially in ensuring that only qualified and registered persons teach in Nigerian schools;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to liaise with the Registrar of the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria to ensure that the education sector is rid of quacks and unqualified teachers and report back in four (4) weeks (*Hon. Suleiman Abubakar Gummi — Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria Act, 2004 confers the Council with absolute powers to, among other things, determine who is a teacher, including registration of qualified teachers and regulating the teaching profession in Nigeria;

Also noted that Section 17 (2) of the Act provides that any person, not being a registered member of the profession who, among other things, practices as a professional teacher, shall be guilty of an offence;

Aware that the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria recently announced that about 300,000 out of the 700,000 teachers in Nigerian schools are not qualified to teach;

Concerned that the statistics provided by the Council revealed that approximately 50% of the total population of teachers in Nigeria are not qualified to teach, a development that is threatening the goal of education which can only be guaranteed by having qualified and experienced teachers in the education sector;

Also concerned about the abysmal level of enforcement of the Council's mandate in this regard, especially in ensuring that only qualified and registered persons teach in Nigerian schools;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to liaise with the Registrar of the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria to ensure that the education sector is rid of quacks and unqualified teachers and report back in four (4) weeks (HR. 131/10/2019).

18. Consideration of Report

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

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 10 October, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.48 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker