



EASTERN NIGERIA

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

**EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

FOURTH SESSION OF THE SECOND HOUSE OF CHIEFS  
OF EASTERN NIGERIA

**SESSION (1964-65)**

FIRST MEETING

*10th March, 6th to 9th April, 1964*

С. ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ

ВЪ КНИЖНОМЪ

МАГАЗИНѢ

С. ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ

ВЪ КНИЖНОМЪ МАГАЗИНѢ

С. ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ

ВЪ КНИЖНОМЪ МАГАЗИНѢ

С. ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ

С. ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ



## EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

### FIRST-CLASS CHIEFS (TRADITIONAL RULERS)

- Chief the hon. Prince Eugene William Dappa Pepple, the Amanyanabo of Bonny.  
 Chief the hon. Frederick Princewill Amachree, M.B.E., Amachree VIII, the Amanyanabo of Kalabari.  
 Chief the hon. Francis O. Joseph Allagoa, M.B.E., the Amanyanabo of Nembe.  
 Chief the hon. Douglas Jaja, the Amanyanabo of Opobo.  
 Chief the hon. Kanu Oji, the Eze Aro of Arochuku.  
 Chief the hon. Nnani Ojiako, the Obi of Oguta.  
 Chief the hon. Joseph Okwudili Onyejekwe, the Obi of Onitsha.  
 Chief the hon. Edem Ekenyong Ephraim Adam, the Obong of Calabar.

### FIRST-CLASS CHIEFS (PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Province</i>
Chief the hon. N. U. Ofem, M.B.E. ... ..	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. S. A. Essien ... ..	Annang.
Chief the hon. Ika Ika Oqua II ... ..	Calabar.
Chief the hon. Sampson I. Adoki ... ..	Degema.
Chief the hon. Ako Okwoli II ... ..	Enugu.
Chief the hon. J. U. Okudare ... ..	Ogoja.
Chief the hon. N. N. Anyika ... ..	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. Johnson Osuji Njemanze, M.B.E. ... ..	Owerri.
Chief the hon. J. Mpi ... ..	Port Harcourt.
Chief the hon. Zumoh Efeke V ... ..	Yenagoa.

(Two vacancies—Umuahia and Uyo Provinces)

### SECOND-CLASS CHIEFS (DIVISIONAL REPRESENTATIVES)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Division</i>
Chief the hon. G. A. Olujie ... ..	Aba.
Chief the hon. F. N. Ogudoro ... ..	Aba.
Chief the hon. P. W. A. de Orji ... ..	Aba.
Chief the hon. J. U. U. Ebong ... ..	Abak.
Chief the hon. Ogba Ekirigwe ... ..	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. Nwancho Atuma ... ..	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. N. Udude ... ..	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. J. A. Anigor ... ..	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. W. A. Uguba ... ..	Afikpo.
Chief the hon. O. O. Uzor ... ..	Afikpo.
Chief the hon. W. Obi ... ..	Ahoada.
Chief the hon. R. A. Ukwu ... ..	Ahoada.
Chief the hon. E. E. Okpa ... ..	Awgu.
Chief the hon. Angus O. Ilonze ... ..	Awka.
Chief the hon. C. O. Nebe ... ..	Awka.
Chief the hon. G. A. Agwu ... ..	Bende.
Chief the hon. S. N. Okore ... ..	Bende.
Chief the hon. J. J. Ogbulafor ... ..	Bende.



SECOND-CLASS CHIEFS (DIVISIONAL REPRESENTATIVES)—*continued*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Division</i>
Chief the hon. G. A. Ikibah, M.B.E. ... ..	Brass.
Chief the hon. Edet Edem ... ..	Calabar.
Chief the hon. Ginah Iponi ... ..	Degema.
Chief the hon. A. U. Ukpa ... ..	Eket.
Chief the hon. E. O. Atakpa ... ..	Enyong.
Chief the hon. U. U. Ibangá ... ..	Ikot Ekpene.
Chief the hon. Ogar Assam ... ..	Ikóm.
Chief the hon. Ugwu Ezugwu-Ukuma ... ..	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. E. O. Nwonye ... ..	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. R. U. Iyida ... ..	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. P. U. Obodoeze ... ..	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. E. A. Egbara ... ..	Obubra.
Chief the hon. J. D. Agba ... ..	Obudu.
Chief the hon. P. M. Abue ... ..	Ogoja.
Chief the hon. S. B. Maeba ... ..	Ogoni.
Chief the hon. D. O. Aligwekwe ... ..	Okigwi.
Chief the hon. A. A. Ekwebelem ... ..	Okigwi.
Chief the hon. S. A. Ike ... ..	Okigwi.
Chief the hon. S. O. Ezenwa, M.B.E. ... ..	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. J. A. Onwudiwe ... ..	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. R. Ojimba Oraelosi ... ..	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. N. Ibok, M.B.E. ... ..	Opobo.
Chief the hon. G. N. Agbasiere ... ..	Orlu.
Chief the hon. N. Duru ... ..	Orlu.
Chief the hon. J. A. Nwosu, M.B.E. ... ..	Orlu.
Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu ... ..	Owerri.
Chief the hon. G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E. ... ..	Owerri.
Chief the hon. H. I. Akwitti ... ..	Owerri.
Chief the hon. E. U. Dureke ... ..	Owerri.
Chief the hon. A. K. C. Nosike ... ..	Owerri.
Chief the hon. E. A. Nnaji ... ..	Udi.
Chief the hon. M. O. Okongwu ... ..	Udi.
Chief the hon. V. O. Agana ... ..	Udi.
Chief the hon. E. A. Affiah... ..	Uyo.
Chief the hon. Nyong Essien, C.M.G. ... ..	Uyo.

(Two vacancies—Onitsha and Port Harcourt Divisions)

**SPECIAL MEMBERS**

Chief the hon. M. I. Asinobi.

Chief the hon. A. O. Chikwendu.

Chief the hon. C. E. Amobi.

Chief the hon. D. O. John Oduah.

(One vacancy)



## EASTERN NIGERIA GOVERNMENT

(Formed by Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, November, 1961)

### MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

PREMIER ... ..	Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara.
MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ... ..	Hon. I. U. Akpabio.
MINISTER OF EDUCATION ... ..	Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke.
MINISTER OF FINANCE ... ..	Hon. E. Emole.
MINISTER OF WORKS ... ..	Hon. P. O. Ururuka.
MINISTER OF HEALTH ... ..	Hon. B. C. Okwu.
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ... ..	Chief the hon. J. U. Nwodo.
MINISTER OF TOWN PLANNING ... ..	Hon. P. O. Nwoga.
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING ... ..	Hon. G. E. Okeke.
MINISTER OF INFORMATION ... ..	Chief the hon. E. P. Okoya.
MINISTER OF CUSTOMARY COURTS AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS ... ..	Hon. O. U. Affiah.
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE ... ..	Hon. M. O. Ajegbo.
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ... ..	Hon. P. N. Okeke.
MINISTER OF COMMERCE ... ..	Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna.
MINISTER OF STATE, PREMIER'S OFFICE ... ..	Chief the hon. D. Jaja, the Amanyanabo of Opobo.
MINISTER OF STATE, PREMIER'S OFFICE ... ..	Chief the hon. A. N. Onyiuke.
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF WORKS ... ..	Chief the hon. J. H. E. Nwuke.
MINISTER OF STATE, PREMIER'S OFFICE ... ..	Hon. H. U. Akpabio.
MINISTER OF STATE, PREMIER'S OFFICE ... ..	Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu.
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ... ..	Hon. D. S. A. Agim.
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ... ..	Dr the hon. N. Otue.
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF FINANCE ... ..	Hon. J. M. Echeruo.

### PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS

Hon. R. O. Iwuagwu ... ..	Umuahia Province.
Hon. E. A. Chime... ..	Enugu Province.
Hon. P. A. Onwe ... ..	Annang Province.
Hon. N. L. P. Apreala ... ..	Degema Province.
Chief the hon. A. O. Chikwendu... ..	Owerri Province.
Hon. S. O. Masi ... ..	Onitsha Province.
Hon. P. G. Warmate ... ..	Yenagoa Province.
Hon. D. J. Edoho ... ..	Uyo Province.
Hon. E. D. Sigalo... ..	Port Harcourt Province.
Hon. M. C. Awgu... ..	Abakaliki Province.
Hon. K. J. N. Okpokam ... ..	Ogoja Province.
Hon. N. E. Nsan ... ..	Calabar Province.

## OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AND MINISTRIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

### **Premier's Office:—**

Premier: Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara;  
Ministers of State: Chief the hon. D. Jaja, the Amanyababo of Opobo;  
Chief the hon. A. N. Onyiuke; hon. H. U. Akpabio; Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu.  
Parliamentary Secretaries:  
Chief the hon. D. O. Aligwekwe;  
Hon. I. Igajah;  
Hon. E. Chuku;  
Hon. E. Aguma.

### **Ministry of Internal Affairs:—**

Minister: Hon. I. U. Akpabio.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. J. A. Jumbo.

### **Ministry of Education:—**

Minister: Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke.  
Minister of State: Hon. D. S. A. Agim.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. K. I. Etuk.

### **Ministry of Finance:—**

Minister: Hon. E. Emole.  
Minister of State: Hon. J. M. Echeruo.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. R. O. Anoke.

### **Ministry of Works:—**

Minister: Hon. P. O. Ururuka.  
Minister of State: Chief the hon. J. H. E. Nwuke.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. D. A. Nnaji.

### **Ministry of Health:—**

Minister: Hon. B. C. Okwu.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. A. Agams.

### **Ministry of Local Government:—**

Minister: Chief the hon. J. U. Nwodo.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. D. O. Nnamani.

### **Ministry of Town Planning:—**

Minister: Hon. P. O. Nwoga.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Chief the hon. R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.

### **Ministry of Economic Planning:—**

Minister: Hon. G. E. Okeke.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. J. N. Odonu.

### **Ministry of Information:—**

Minister: Chief the hon. E. P. Okoya.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. O. Egbe.

### **Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs:—**

Minister: Hon. O. U. Affiah.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. M. U. Obayi.

### **Ministry of Justice:—**

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: Hon. M. O. Ajegbo.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. S. E. K. Iwueke.



**Ministry of Agriculture:—**

Minister: Hon. P. N. Okeke.  
Minister of State: Dr the hon. N. Otue.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. J. E. Eyo.

**Ministry of Commerce:—**

Minister: Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. R. O. Ikwueke.

**COMMITTEES**

**Committee of Selection**

The Premier (*Chairman*).  
The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief D. Jaja).  
The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief S. E. Onukogu).  
Chief J. Mpi.  
Chief C. E. Amobi.  
Chief F. N. Ogudoro.  
Chief A. U. Ukpa.

**Standing Orders Committee**

President (*Chairman*).  
Deputy President.  
Minister of Town Planning.  
Chief A. A. Ekwebelem.  
Chief J. A. Anigor.  
Chief P. M. Abue.

**House Committee**

Minister of Internal Affairs (*Chairman*).  
Chief Angus Ilonze.  
Chief P. U. Obodoeze.  
Chief S. A. Essien.  
Chief S. N. Okore.  
Chief J. D. Agba.

**Public Petitions Committee**

Minister of Information (*Chairman*).  
Chief S. A. Ike.  
Chief J. Nwosu, M.B.E.  
Chief N. N. Anyika.  
Chief E. O. Atakpa.  
Chief F. O. J. Allagoa, M.B.E.  
Chief G. A. Ikibah, M.B.E.

**Committee of Privileges**

Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs (*Chairman*).  
Chief E. Nnaji.  
Chief E. E. Okpa.  
Chief P. E. W. D. Pepple.  
Chief Ogba Ekirigwe.  
Chief R. A. Ukwu.  
Chief A. K. C. Nosike.



### Statutory Corporations Committee

Minister of Commerce (*Chairman*).  
Chief N. U. Ofem, M.B.E.  
Chief J. U. U. Ebong.  
Chief H. I. Akwitti.  
Chief S. O. Ezenwa, M.B.E.  
Chief G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E.  
Chief S. B. Maeba.

### Public Accounts Committee

Chief J. Mpi (*Chairman*).  
Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.  
Chief C. E. Amobi.  
Chief A. U. Ukpa.  
Chief F. N. Ogudoro.

### PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

The President: Chief the hon. Nyong Essien, C.M.G.  
Leader of the House: Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke, *Minister of Education*.  
Deputy President: Chief the hon. G. N. Agbasiere.  
Clerk of the Legislature: Mr L. O. Okoro, M.B.E.  
Acting Clerk-Assistant: Mr V. C. Anigekwu.  
Editor, Official Report (*Hansard*): Mr S. B. C. Melifonwu.  
Assistant Editor, Official Report (*Hansard*): Mr J. A. Okoh.  
Official Reporter, Grade I: Mr K. A. N. Ekwos.  
Executive Officer (General Duties): Mr A. I. Madukwe.  
Executive Officer (Accounts): Mr E. O. Asuquo.  
Serjeant-at-Arms: Mr B. O. Ajumogobia.

Eastern House of Chiefs and House of Assembly Debates

1

[Proclamation]

10 MARCH 1964

[Proclamation]

2

JOINT SITTING OF THE EASTERN  
HOUSE OF CHIEFS AND THE  
EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th March, 1964

The Houses met at 10 a.m. pursuant to Proclamations by His Excellency the Governor in the Official Gazettes of 27th February, 1964 and of 9th March, 1964, as followeth:—

“A PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency SIR FRANCIS AKANU IBIAM, Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor of Eastern Nigeria.

L.S.

FRANCIS  
AKANU IBIAM  
Governor of Eastern  
Nigeria

WHEREAS under section 30 of the Constitution of Eastern Nigeria as contained in the Schedule to the Constitution of Eastern Nigeria Law, 1963, it is provided that each Session of the Legislative Houses of the Region shall be held at such place within the Region and shall begin at such time as the Governor shall appoint;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient and necessary that the Legislative Houses be convened;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCIS AKANU IBIAM, Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in exercise of the powers in that behalf vested in me, do by this Proclamation appoint the Chamber of the Legislature of Eastern Nigeria and Tuesday the 10th day of March, 1964 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to be the place and time for the commencement of the Fourth Session of the Second House of Chiefs and the Fourth Session of the Fifth House of Assembly.

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of Eastern Nigeria, this 25th day of February, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four.”

“A PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency SIR FRANCIS AKANU IBIAM, Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor of Eastern Nigeria.

L.S.

FRANCIS  
AKANU IBIAM  
Governor of Eastern  
Nigeria

WHEREAS under section 42 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federation, it is provided that of the Members of the Senate there shall be twelve Senators representing each Region who shall be selected by a Joint Sitting of the Legislative Houses of that Region from among persons nominated by the Governor;

AND WHEREAS under paragraph 4 of the Selection of Senators (Eastern Nigeria) Regulations, 1959 the Governor shall by proclamation give notice to the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly of his intention to summon a Joint Sitting of both Houses for the selection of a Senator;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary and expedient that a Joint Sitting of both Houses be convened to select a Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of one of the twelve Senators representing Eastern Nigeria;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCIS AKANU IBIAM, Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in exercise of the power in that behalf vested in me do by this proclamation appoint the Chamber of the Legislature of Eastern Nigeria and Tuesday the 10th day of March, 1964 at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon to be the place and time of the Joint Sitting for the purpose of selecting the said Senator.

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of Eastern Nigeria, this 9th day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four.”

Mr Speaker read the Prayer and the President of the House of Chiefs took the Chair.



**The President:** Hon. Members, as you are aware, His Excellency the Governor will be here this morning to open the new Session of the Legislature. Is it your wish that His Excellency be received on his arrival?

**Hon. Members:** Aye.

**The President:** Sitting is suspended pending His Excellency's arrival.

*Sitting resumed.*

### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

The Governor, being seated on the Throne, His Excellency was pleased to make a Most Gracious Speech to both Houses of the Legislature as follows:—

**Mr President, hon. Members of the House of Chiefs, Mr Speaker, hon. Members of the House of Assembly**

*The past year has been one of all-round progress in the Region. There are good reasons for my people to feel a sense of pride and achievement in the events that have taken place in the last twelve months; the nation has developed from a Sovereign to a Republican State and a new constitution for Eastern Nigeria has been successfully launched. The building of the new Legislature is nearing completion at the Independence Layout, and it is hoped that the next session of this Legislature will be opened under its more dignifying atmosphere. With peace and stability firmly established, the pace of agricultural and industrial investments has exceeded previous records. Above all, there is evidence everywhere of increasing desire by the people to participate in the economic development of the Region.*

*My Government intends to consolidate and build upon these achievements in the coming year and to give every encouragement to those aspects which will bring more wealth to the rural areas. To this end, the Fund for Agricultural and Industrial Development was established to provide loan capital for the small investor in agriculture and industry. Inter-Ministerial, Provincial and County Rural Development Committees have been established to guide and direct the effort of the various communities to undertake viable economic projects, and to assist them with obtaining loans for projects which they cannot entirely complete out of their own resources.*

*The Provincial Assemblies are functioning well and will play an important part in making the rural development programme a success.*

### THE PUBLIC SERVICE

*The Public Service has continued to maintain its traditionally high standards without any slowing down of the pace of Nigerianization. All posts of professional Heads of Divisions except one have been Nigerianized and arrangements have been finalized for the last. Expatriates on established professional and technical posts, both the superscale and the long-grade, now represent only 16 per cent. of the total. In 1963 alone, a total of 178 officers were recruited to these posts, and of this total only twenty-five or 14 per cent. were expatriates. It will be seen from these figures that Nigerianization, in the words of His Excellency the President, is no longer a political issue.*

*The production of schemes of service for all permanent and established posts will continue to be carried out actively in the Establishment Division of the Premier's Office, where it is also proposed ultimately to issue a publication designed to enable prospective entrants into the Public Service to understand the scope of the various posts in the Public Service as well as prospects of advancement in the various careers.*

*The efforts to train Nigerians for all levels of the Public Service will be vigorously continued. Towards this end a permanent Institute of Public Administration is being put up in Enugu with funds provided by the Ford Foundation of the United States of America. This centre will provide, in addition to other facilities, a classroom space for 300 students at a time, an auditorium and a modern Language Laboratory.*

*As from the 14th of April this year, an annual competitive examination for entry into the Public Service will be introduced for the posts of Administrative Officers. Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies, Management Officers, Produce Officers, Accountants and Auditors. These posts require broadly the same qualities of intellect and character. An important feature of this competition will be the extended interviews which are designed to give sufficient clue to candidates' character and aptitude to ensure that right placements are made.*

*An Inspection Branch of the Organization and Methods Division of the Premier's Office will come into being during the course of the year, to deal with work measurement and staff complement with a view to ensuring that staff are properly*



deployed and utilized. It is proposed to extend the services of this Division to the staff of Local Government bodies and government corporations.

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

My Government will continue to maintain the cordial relationship between it and the University of Nigeria and to give financial assistance towards its work. The enrolment in the University is now over 1,800 of whom 226 will complete their degree courses in June this year. The strength of the Staff in the University is now 246. It is expected that within the course of the year, the departments of Archaeology, Forestry and Fishery will be established and degree courses will be offered in Veterinary Science. My Government is grateful to the Ford Foundation for making a substantial grant to the Economic Development Institute of the University.

#### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The encouragement of increased production remains the basis of the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture. It is proposed to revise and expand the membership of the Board of Agriculture to make it more representative of the farming community. Agricultural extension work will be expanded and development of the new Provincial Extension Centres will be continued. While research and training will continue with the facilities at present available, final plans will be made for their co-ordination and for the expansion of the Umudike Agricultural Centre with the assistance of the Agency for International Development.

The Soil Survey programme will be vigorously implemented during the coming year. Special attention will be given to the development of rice and live-stock production and to increasing the supply of day-old chicks from the Abakaliki Poultry Centre to meet increasing demand. Maize production for animal feed will be stimulated, storage facilities for the grain produced will be improved and arrangements will be made for the provision of feed at reasonable prices to farmers. Fertilizer distribution will also be intensified. The serious problem of organizing improved marketing facilities for the distribution within Nigeria, of the increasing volume of produce, will receive active attention.

There will be much more rapid progress in the implementation of the tree crop rehabilitation and

planting schemes. The supply of planting material is now satisfactory and more transport will be available for its distribution. The planting programme of the Agricultural and Plantations Division of the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation will also be vigorously pursued. The Farm Settlement Scheme will maintain its present momentum; at least 600 more settlers will be recruited during the year and seven more permanent villages will be completed. Work will begin on the establishment of a nucleus rubber plantation and small-holder scheme in the Biase area in partnership with the Commonwealth Development Corporation, and preliminary investigations into the possibility of setting up a sugar plantation in the Anambra-Do area will be carried out.

The Fisheries Division will continue the development of fish-ponds and carry out experimental work in coastal fishing. Negotiations to establish a commercial trawling industry have nearly been completed and work on the fisheries terminal at Port Harcourt will be continued.

At least fourteen square miles of the Forest Estate will be exploited in the coming year and 3,000 acres of the exploited areas will be converted into timber plantations. It is proposed to open a biological garden in Enugu. Anti-erosion work will be continued jointly by the Agricultural and Forestry Divisions. The enumeration of the Oban Forest Reserve will be carried out under Canadian Technical Assistance as a preliminary to setting up major wood-working industries.

The Veterinary Division will continue to expand its activities in the rural areas and more centres will be opened. Plans will be finalized for the development of the Ezzamgbo Veterinary Investigation Centre.

The Produce Inspection staff will work to maintain the present high standards of produce. An anti-infestation unit is being set up to prevent the possibility of the deterioration of the increasingly important cocoa crop. It is anticipated that during the year regulations for all produce will be made under the recent Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Law, 1963.

While attending to the interests of the primary producers and improved facilities for purchasing produce for export, the Marketing Board will continue to meet its financial obligations under the Development Plan.



## MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

In most developing countries, industrialization is fundamental to the economic progress and the welfare of the citizens. To this end, my Government is pursuing relentlessly the expansion and acceleration of the industrialization programme. In some industries my Government provides all the necessary capital, in others the degree of participation varies from 2 per cent. to 70 per cent. In addition, my Government will continue to encourage in a variety of ways small businesses and rural industries which prove to be profitable to the people and offer new outlets for employment.

Last December, the hon. the Premier performed the formal opening of the magnificent Hotel Presidential in Enugu. Another Hotel Presidential in Port Harcourt will be ready for opening during the year. These two Hotels will cater for the long-felt needs of high-class tourists and industrialists. In addition, three new Catering Rest-houses are being built at Owerri, Uyo and Ogoja. They are among the projects financed completely by my Government: others are Independence Brewery at Umuahia which has gone into production, the Glass Factory at Port Harcourt, and the Modern Ceramics Factory which will be opened in the near future. A number of other industries, with Government participation, are being established including a plastics factory, an enamelware factory, a flour mill, a crocodile matchet factory, a vehicle assembly plant at Port Harcourt, a shoe factory at Owerri and a cement factory at Calabar. The Lead-Zinc project at Abakaliki will be reactivated. These will contribute their quota in employment potential. It is important to mention that the two large Textile Mills at Aba and Onitsha have commenced building and when in full production will offer employment to over four thousand workers.

The smaller manufacturers and craftsmen are of course not forgotten. The Industrial Development Centre at Owerri is expanding and through this centre improved techniques are being taught to private leather workers, joiners, metal workers and others who are engaged in small industries of one kind or another. As these small operators improve in efficiency and expand, they will employ more workers. Our local handicrafts—ABATEX, the Akwete cloth, the Ekulu, Okigwi and Inyi potteries, the Ikot Ekpene raffia works, Awka carving and wrought

iron craft—have won international recognition, and it is the intention of my Government to improve the marketing of these products by increasing their number and quality.

The Ministry of Commerce has been receiving considerable technical assistance from the United Nations, the United Kingdom and the United States. These experts help in the development and promotion of industries and businesses in the Region. The Trade Division is expanding its activities in rendering invaluable assistance to Nigerian businessmen.

It is intended, in the expanding vista of the Co-operative Movement, that all the existing Farm Settlements in the Region will be registered as Comprehensive Co-operative Societies which will serve as effective channels of supply, processing, marketing and distribution of goods and credit. Co-operative Community Farms will be established in different parts of the Region as a means of bringing more land under cultivation in the rural areas.

The Laboratory Division of the Ministry of Commerce was established in order that fundamental scientific research on local materials may be undertaken. Results thus obtained will be of use in the development of rural industries.

The Eastern Nigeria Housing Corporation is concentrating on the production of low-cost housing though high class buildings are not completely excluded. A new Savings Scheme to assist workers in the purchase of these low-cost houses, has recently been launched under the auspices of the Corporation and centres are being opened at Enugu and Port Harcourt.

MINISTRY OF CUSTOMARY  
COURTS AND CHIEFTAINCY  
AFFAIRS

The Ministry continues with its programme of consolidation and expansion. Customary Courts have now been established throughout the Region to replace the old Native Courts. Proposals for the reorganization, control and supervision of these courts will continue to be pursued vigorously in the coming year. It is proposed to post a State Counsel to Owerri to open another zonal office there.

My Government is giving thought to the possibility of codifying our native law and



custom, and to that end will embark on the collection of important decided cases in the Customary Courts.

From the experience so far gained in the operation of Customary Courts, a number of amendments to the Customary Courts Law and Customary Courts Rules have been proposed and a Bill introducing these will come before this Legislature in due course.

With regard to chieftaincy matters, my Government will continue in its policy of ensuring that the institution of chieftaincy is firmly established and given the respect it deserves.

#### MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING

The problem of unemployment is one which is actively exercising the mind of my Government and the Regional Man-power Committee; already a £1 million Rural Development project has been launched and funds provided for five Trade Schools. These projects and other labour-intensive or labour-training agricultural and industrial schemes such as Nucleus Plantations, Agricultural Colleges, a large expansion in both the Owerri Industrial Development Centre, the activities of Fund for Agricultural and Industrial Development, and the establishment of agricultural-based industries, are now being planned and will be implemented progressively as funds become available.

Conscious of the additional burden which the eradication of unemployment will place on our scarce available resources, the Ministry of Economic Planning will continue to make strenuous and unremitting efforts to attract loans and grants both from overseas and from Federal and National sources such as the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank and the Federal Scheme for assisting Regional Primary Production programmes. It is hoped that during the year loans will be negotiated for various road projects including the Port Harcourt-Igbita-Umuzeala Road and Township Roads in Port Harcourt and Enugu. Loans are also expected for the Port Harcourt Comprehensive School, the Umudihe Agricultural Centre, and the Rural Community Development project. Other loans including those for rural electrification, plantation development, and industrial expansion, are in the planning stage. The Ministry of Economic Planning will also continue to negotiate and secure equipment and commodity grants and the provision of technical experts under the various bilateral

and international technical assistance schemes already operating in Nigeria.

A more critical review of the Development Plan in the light of resources likely to be available will be undertaken. As an aspect of this review, a Progress Report showing what has thus far been achieved within the Plan will be presented to this House for study during the present session.

The collection, collation, and analysis of dependable statistics which are a *sine qua non* for effective planning is a prime objective of Government. To this end, it is proposed to enlarge the Statistical Division of this Ministry so that statistical surveys of enlarged scope and complexity can be undertaken with greater expedition and efficiency. For ease of deployment and control of statistical methodology, my Government intends to create a unified cadre of statistical workers who, while posted to statistical units in other Ministries, will be controlled centrally from the Ministry of Economic Planning.

My Government will continue to work in collaboration with the Niger Delta Development Board in order to ensure the economic growth of the people of the Niger Delta.

#### MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

As from this year the primary school period has been compressed from seven to six years with a new syllabus. At the beginning of this calendar year, my Government has also decided to make Elementary III fee-free and to reduce the Assumed Local Contribution factor from thirty-six to thirty. These major changes have involved my Government in an additional expenditure of more than £1 million. In order to provide opportunities of further education to the young primary school leavers, and as a step towards the supply of the much-needed semi-skilled man-power, ten out of the twenty-four trade schools which Government proposes to build will be established this year. Parallel to the trade schools, agricultural schools will be established in the rural areas. Training in these agricultural schools will last five or more years, at the end of which the trainees will be sufficiently strong and equipped to engage in modern agriculture.

The teaching of science has been introduced in primary schools. A successful experiment in this was carried out in eighty primary schools last year. Eighty other schools will be added this year, and this will continue until all primary schools are



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covered. An encouraging approach has been made to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for funds to expand the teaching of science in secondary schools and to establish it in Teacher Training Colleges all over the Region. Teacher Training Colleges thus equipped will produce science teachers for the teaching of science in primary schools.

The study of a Nigerian language will be compulsory in our primary schools and, in the secondary schools, the study of a foreign language in addition to English will be encouraged.

There are in this Region two hundred and two secondary grammar schools and twenty-two commercial ones. Permission has been granted for thirty new ones to be opened this year. Thus, we shall, by the end of this year, have two hundred and fifty-four secondary grammar and secondary commercial schools. This number of secondary schools is enough to serve the needs of the Region. It is, therefore, not proposed to allow many more to open, and the exception will apply mainly to girls' secondary schools for which the need for more still exists. In order to facilitate the maximum use of places available in these schools the maximum fees chargeable in these institutions will be controlled. In addition, secondary school proprietors will be required to provide facilities for day students paying only the tuition fees. These two measures will surely open the doors of our secondary schools to many more children than hitherto.

A new type of secondary school, combining the work of secondary grammar, secondary commercial and secondary technical schools, is now operating in Port Harcourt. In the light of our experience in Port Harcourt, all our secondary schools may eventually be required to make their first three years comprehensive so that, depending on aptitudes, students can branch from there to do teacher training, commercial education, or full secondary grammar education.

A college of technology is to be built at Enugu, which will produce technologists and high grade technicians with recognized professional qualifications. In addition a technical institute is to be built at Port Harcourt.

The standard of our teacher training colleges will continue to be improved. Mention has already been made of our plans to extend the teaching of science to these colleges, in order to

produce teachers who will teach science in our primary schools. As from the end of this year, no more Grade III teachers will be produced, this class of teachers, introduced to meet a past need, have served their purpose. In their place will henceforth be produced Grade II teachers, particularly that class of Grade II teachers known as pivotal. It is planned to have all Grade III teachers trained into Grade II by the end of 1966, and that means that four thousand five hundred higher grade teachers will be trained each year from now to 1966.

The Rural Education Centre at Umudike will now become a branch of the Advanced Teacher Training College, Owerri, producing teachers who will teach agriculture in our secondary schools and teacher training colleges.

#### MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The greater part of the Regional revenue is collected by the Internal Revenue Division, and to it is due in no small measure the credit for our revenue growth in the last few years. In the coming year, the revenue from income tax will be greater than it has ever been, and to achieve this our collection methods will be improved. In the remote rural areas, where difficulties sometimes occur, we will build more sub-offices in order to bring the instruments of tax collection to the very door of the taxpayer and we hope that the problem will increasingly diminish as more and more sub-tax offices are established. In the larger towns, measures have been devised to combat malpractices in motor licensing, and these will be prosecuted with unremitting vigour.

The Accounting Division of the Ministry plays an important part in Government business. Some new Sub-Treasuries for the Division will be built in the coming year, in towns where modern needs have rendered the old buildings unsuitable. The machinery of financial control will be kept under constant review with the intention of improving the process.

Hon. Members will be gratified to learn when the hon. Minister of Finance delivers his Budget Speech that we shall have a budget surplus of over one million pounds. The war against wasteful expenditure and bad estimation will continue, and efforts to this end will be redoubled. In particular my Government's policy for the control of the finances of statutory corporations will continue to be vigorously prosecuted.



## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

*In Medical and Health Services emphasis will, in the current year, be laid on the modernization and general improvement of existing hospitals. To this end preliminary arrangements have been made for a specialist hospital at Enugu while plans are well advanced for starting this year the construction of the 500-bed mental hospital at Oji River which is to be manned by two United Kingdom trained indigenous psychiatrists. A 500-bed specialist hospital is also proposed for Port Harcourt and it is hoped that work on this will start within this development period.*

*The Okomoko and the Achi Community Hospitals will become joint hospitals when completed by the communities concerned and Government will continue to support voluntary agency hospitals and joint hospitals with capital grants.*

*The Ministry will continue to press for the improvement in the standard of work of Doctors, Nurses and other Health personnel by in-service and technical assistance training overseas. It will also continue vigorous campaign against the mounting scourge of Tuberculosis. Already a routine Region-wide vaccination against the disease is being carried out among infants and children. This will increase in tempo and volume in the years ahead.*

*A modern dental centre is planned for Port Harcourt and will accommodate two Dental Surgeons and a department of Maxillo Facial Surgery. It is also proposed to start a centre at Owerri.*

*In the field of Rural Health, increasing emphasis will be laid on the basic training of the Local Government medical auxiliaries so that a truly comprehensive service is offered through the health centres and other units. Particular stress will be on Maternal and Child Health with wider use of immunization procedures and nutrition education. The Institute of Child Health to be opened shortly at Aba and the increased establishment of supervising Health Sisters will strengthen this aspect of our services. The highly successful Yaws Eradication Campaign will complete the mass injection phase, and follow-up where necessary will become part of the normal services.*

*The activities of the Health Education Section at Oji River will gradually be extended to all*

*parts of the Region. A new Health Education Centre for the Aba School of Hygiene will be built this financial year. Health Education seminars which were held in Nsukka and Abakaliki Divisions, as well as Nutrition Education Seminars held at Iyi-Enu Hospital last financial year, will be extended to other Divisions in the Region, especially in the Ogoja Province.*

*A one-week seminar mainly for senior service medical and health personnel working in the Ministry of Health is proposed by the University of Nigeria to instruct tutors in new teaching techniques and to introduce to them modern methods of effective communication.*

*Malaria Pre-eradication Service has been established and the World Health Organization which provide experts to work with our staff will shortly send a Public Health Administrator and an Entomologist. Spraying operation will commence in the training area by the end of the financial year.*

*Consultations are in progress with the National Council on Health Services for the purpose of launching a national smallpox eradication campaign next October.*

*Sites have been acquired for Polyclinics at Enugu and Port Harcourt and it is hoped that their construction will be completed in the current financial year. A site has also been acquired in Enugu for a School Health Centre and work on the construction is expected to commence shortly.*

## MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

*During the past year, there has been substantial increase in the production of information of all kinds, written and photographic for the widest circulation through radio and television, books, magazines, newspapers and special publications. All these information media aim at fostering a stable democratic Government and a virile forward-looking people of Eastern Nigeria.*

*In my last Speech to this Legislature, I emphasized my Government's intention to extend television services throughout Eastern Nigeria. Hon. Members will, no doubt, be delighted to hear that the Independence Layout studios and the powerful television transmitting station at Okpatu Hill are nearing completion. It is hoped that before the end of the present Session, the services of the television and transmitting station at Ogor Hill, will be made available to Aba and the environs.*



Quite apart from producing and distributing films to cinemas throughout the Federation and overseas agencies, the Film Division aims at expanding its mobile cinema system, including cinema barges, the production of daily newsreel and processing and colour films on industrial development of Eastern Nigeria.

The Ikot Ekpene Library and its fleet of mobile library services will soon be open for use. Work on the Umuahia project has commenced. It is proposed to establish two more libraries at Onitsha and Abakaliki in order to complete a chain of five Divisional Library network in the overall Regional library system. In the very near future, it is planned to give financial assistance to local authorities towards development of locally maintained reading-rooms and libraries. The launching of a riverine boat library unit in the Niger Delta areas of the Region will not be long delayed.

With its daily circulation rising to 30,000, and by means of its well-organized transport service, the "Nigerian Outlook" now reaches every corner of the Federal Republic. There is a robust scheme for improvement and expansion of the general activities of the Eastern Nigeria Information Services Corporation.

#### MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Community Development Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs will embark upon the establishment of rural development plantations in all villages where the community is willing to provide the necessary land. The increased staff required for the execution of such a scheme will be met by the appointment and training of a new cadre of Executive Officers to be known as Rural Development Organizers. Co-ordinating committees with specified functions have been set up at County Council, Provincial and Regional levels.

In Adult Education, more Women's Centres will be opened, and Adult Education Programmes will be carried out to all the 106 County Councils of Eastern Nigeria. Poultry farming and improved vegetable farming methods will be introduced into the curriculum and the general expansion will be reflected in the appointment of Assistant Adult Education Officers and the engagement of more Adult Education Organizers.

The Social Welfare Division will submit proposals for the enactment of a law to regulate

the adoption of children within Eastern Nigeria. More staff and equipment will be provided for the new Remand Homes in the Provinces.

In the Fire Fighting Division, the four newly arrived fire engines will be commissioned and fire service will be extended to more parts of the Region.

In the Printing Division, training facilities will be expanded and an Apprentice Master appointed to train staff in Letterpress Machine. One of the major jobs to be undertaken during the year will be the printing of the "Revised Laws of Eastern Nigeria".

#### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE:

The Department of Public Prosecutions which was formerly independent of the Ministry of Justice was integrated with the Ministry by the Constitution. The hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General is now charged, in addition to his other duties, with the duty of initiating or discontinuing criminal proceedings.

My Government is determined to find an answer to the land disputes in the Region and many proposals, including the enactment of a Boundaries Commissions Law, are being examined by the Ministry.

The recording of Customary Law in Eastern Nigeria is engaging the attention of the Ministry. This is an enormous and expensive operation. The Restatement of African Law Project of the University of London and the Institute of International and Comparative Law, have expressed their willingness to assist.

The Ministry is proposing to take over the business of Law reporting and the spade work for the next issue has been done. It is proposed to encourage the establishment of a law journal.

#### MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

The Ministry will continue to advise and guide all councils in the various aspects of their responsibilities in order to inspire confidence in the local government system. Priority will be given by councils to the expansion and improvement of services which will assist in building up the economic strength of the Region.

My Government will discourage any further territorial fragmentation of county councils to



produce additional county councils whose viability and capacity to perform the full range of local government functions as required by the law would be doubtful. Rather it is proposed to merge unviable councils.

All future local government elections will be held in the February–March period. A bill for a law for the extension of the lives of certain local government councils will be presented to you which will make it possible for councils which are due elections in any other period to have their terms of office extended to February–March, the object being to eliminate the haphazard dates and period of elections which obtain at present.

The lives of the existing Care-taker Councils will be brought to an end since they have served the purpose for which they were established. They will be replaced by elected councils.

It is proposed to give more powers to some councils which have demonstrated their capacity to exercise them to enable them to appoint and dismiss daily paid workers and appoint Scale 1 employees subject to the right of appeal in the case of dismissal to the Local Government Commissioner.

The Ministry will continue to assist councils in the matter of training Local Government personnel. Intensive training courses will be organized locally and abroad. Scholarships in Public Administration will be granted to qualified and deserving senior Local Government officers to undertake a two-year Diploma in Public Administration.

The Ministry is making plans for the improvement of sanitation in urban towns. All new buildings in urban areas which have pipe-borne water supply must make provision for water closets.

Comprehensive survey and drainage schemes will be undertaken in urban areas with a view to arresting the dangers of erosion and concomitant damages to lives and property.

#### MINISTRY OF TOWN PLANNING

The reorganization of the Ministry will be finalized as soon as the new office blocks are completed and allocated.

The Ministry will continue to offer assistance in making land available for industrial, agricultural and educational development, as well as for

low cost housing by the Housing Corporation. A site to establish the Board of Customs and Excise and the Ports Authority services at Bonny will be acquired.

Modern techniques in Cartography will be introduced in the Survey Drawing Office and various provincial and new road maps embarked upon. The tempo of staff training will be accelerated and the Survey School will be re-planned for a more effective output. In order to meet the need for more detailed mapping of the Region the Ministry will pay more attention to the training of personnel in Photogrammetric technology. The extension of control for small-scale mapping from air photographs will continue and the mapping of the northern areas of the Region and also the important towns of Enugu, Port Harcourt and Aba will be far advanced or completed. Boundary surveys of farm settlements will be completed and surveys connected with phase 2 of the Independence, the Trans-Amadi, the Diobu and the Onitsha Bridge-head layouts will be undertaken. In the area of Geodetic Surveys, bench marking will continue for several routes which connect important towns.

Proposals for the revision of the Town and Country Planning Ordinance will be further examined with a view to enabling the expanding Town Planning Authorities play more active roles in the development of towns. Local communities will be encouraged through Town Planning Authorities to undertake land development schemes.

It is hoped, during the year, to receive and consider the report of the Land Consolidation and Registration Committee and to take such preliminary steps as would facilitate the promulgation of a Master Plan for the Region.

#### MINISTRY OF WORKS

The new financial year will see more intensive road construction activity than was possible last year. In addition to some ten uncompleted road projects to be carried over from last year's programme, a new road project, the Calabar–Ikom road, which is estimated to cost well over three million pounds will be started.

In addition the Ministry of Works proposes to commission a Transportation Survey of Eastern Nigeria which it is hoped will be financed in part



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by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It is proposed to use this survey as a basis for attracting funds from overseas agencies, in particular the World Bank to finance additional road schemes. It is hoped that some of the more important new roads that have been surveyed, for example, the Okigwi-Umuahia and the Nnewi-Akokwa-Okigwi, Obigbo-Afam roads will be started from Regional funds or otherwise this financial year.

The United Kingdom Government has agreed to finance with a credit of £206,000 the purchase of new plant and vehicles that are very badly needed for maintenance and construction purposes.

In respect of water schemes external costs over the next two years are being met from the United Kingdom credit of £1.374 million, leaving my Government to find the "local costs" which amount to a little over half the cost of the scheme. In 1964-65 it is hoped that a large number of new mechanically-operated water schemes will be commissioned, and the majority of those listed in the Development Plan which takes into consideration every Division will be started. In addition, some assistance from the United States Agency for International Development is expected for the construction of impounded reservoirs in the area of the Cross River plain, an area that suffers from an acute shortage of water in the dry season which for technical reasons has proved very difficult to overcome. In Enugu, the recent commissioning of the new four million gallon reservoir should ensure a much better supply next dry season.

The programme of public buildings that commenced during the last Development Plan, including the new Premier's Lodge and the Composite Office Block at Port Harcourt, should be finally completed in 1964-65. Thereafter the Building Branch of the Ministry of Works will be mainly undertaking work for other Ministries that form a part of the current Development Plan.

It is hoped that a start will be made on some rural electrification schemes this year, and the United States Agency for International Development have indicated a desire to assist financially. In the meantime the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria are considering which of the proposed new schemes are likely to prove viable.

Work will continue on the new Inland Waterways Dockyard at Amadi Creek, Port Harcourt,

which is being developed jointly with the Federal Government and the Niger Delta Development Board. The improved Creek Mail Service has proved popular and will continue. A number of older launches that are at the end of their useful lives are to be replaced with more suitable crafts designed for the conditions of the Niger Delta.

Road Safety is another important function of the Ministry of Works, and continued efforts will be made through Regional and Provincial Road Safety Committees and interested private bodies to reduce the dangers of travelling on our highways.

As hon. Members are aware, the preliminary figures of the National population census have been released by the Prime Minister. I regret to report to the House that as the preliminary figures released do not command public confidence, my Government has rejected them. I hope, however, that an honourable and equitable solution may be speedily found to the problems posed by the present controversy.

Mr President, hon. Members of the House of Chiefs, Mr Speaker, hon. Members of the House of Assembly, this Region has enjoyed progress and stability because of the adherence of its people to the principles of true democracy, as contained in our constitution; because of the faith we have in our institutions which guarantee to everyone the personal freedoms of private and family life, of conscience, expression and association; and above all, because of our firm belief in God's guidance and direction.

It is our privilege and our duty therefore as the representatives of the people to enter the coming year with greater fortitude, confidence and determination to uphold our freedoms as well as the guiding light of truth and righteousness, so that those whom we have the honour to lead may find the path of true liberty and national greatness.

Mr President, hon. Members of the House of Chiefs, Mr Speaker, hon. Members of the House of Assembly, I pray that Almighty God may guide you in your deliberations.

His Excellency then retired from the Chamber.

**The President:** Hon. Members, sitting is suspended until 11.30 a.m. for the selection of a Senator.



*Sitting suspended at 11.15 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed at 11.30 a.m.*

**MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY  
THE GOVERNOR ON THE SELECTION  
OF A SENATOR**

**The President:** Hon. Members, the Meeting continues.

I have received the following Message relating to the selection of a Senator from His Excellency the Governor:

*“Mr President,*

*“Whereas it is provided by the Constitution of the Federation that there shall be a Parliament which shall consist of the President, the Senate and the House of Representatives;*

*And whereas under section 42 (1) (a) of the said Constitution it is further provided that of the members of the Senate there shall be twelve Senators representing each Region who shall be selected by a Joint Sitting of the Legislative Houses of that Region from among persons to be nominated by the Governor;*

*And whereas it is necessary and expedient to fill the vacancy caused by the death of one of the twelve Senators representing Eastern Nigeria;*

*And whereas I have nominated Mr P. O. Okoro for selection as a member of the Senate to represent Eastern Nigeria;*

*Now, therefore, I do by this Message invite the Joint Sitting of the Legislative Houses of Eastern Nigeria to select the said Mr P. O. Okoro as a Member of the Senate to represent Eastern Nigeria.*

FRANCIS AKANU IBIAM  
Governor”

*Question proposed:* That the Governor's nomination of Mr P. O. Okoro for selection as a Senator be approved.

**The Premier (Dr M. I. Okpara):** Mr President, as you have just indicated, the reason behind this selection is the sudden death of Senator H. Udoh. Let me seize this opportunity to pay very brief tribute again to the memory of Senator Udoh. He was for many years a schoolmaster at the Government School, Aba, where he helped in the training of many of the leaders of the present generation. He took an active part in fostering cultural

organizations throughout Eastern Nigeria. But perhaps his greatest contribution was to the Nationalist Movement where he used his energy in fostering the growth of this Movement.

In 1960, he was unanimously elected as one of the twelve Senators representing this Region in the Federal Parliament. Information reaching us is that he was always a constructive and level-headed debater. He died in active service. Our condolences go to the bereaved family.

As some constitutions say, “The King is dead; long live the King.” So it is with the greatest pleasure that I recommend Paul Okoro who also hails from Arochuku although he lives in Calabar. He is a progressive and successful businessman, a great philanthropist and a patriot who will represent this Region well in the Federal Parliament.

Sir, I beg to support the selection.

**Mr A. G. Umoh (A.G.—Enyong Central):** I would like to join the hon. Premier in extending my sincere condolences to the family of late Senator H. Udoh. The report of his death was a real shock to all of us who knew him.

I am sorry that I should have to say something different from what the hon. Premier has said now, all in connection with the same matter. During the debate on the original selection of the twelve Senators, I did raise the point that by the law providing for the appointment of Senators, Calabar Division and Enyong Division were to share one seat. I did say that even though the late Senator Udoh was a personal friend—I had no objection to his going to the Senate—I considered it a cheat to Enyong and Calabar Divisions that a man from Arochuku, which is in Bende Division, should be allowed to represent Calabar and Enyong in the Senate. It was not easy to get the House to heed my point, but I would like to repeat the same argument here as it is evident that we are being cheated by letting a person from another Province to represent us, that is, Calabar and Enyong Divisions. This gentleman comes from Arochuku in Bende Division.

**The Premier:** I think the hon. Member has again got it wrong. The basis of the

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selection which we made in 1960 was the old Provincial arrangement which had five Provinces. We made it absolutely clear that that was the system we used. I quoted at length that it was the Opposition which proposed this system which we were using, and if we agreed to use that system, I think we can hardly argue at the same time that we should use the new Provincial arrangement. In any case, the gentleman lives in Calabar and the Senate has only a few months to run and no one knows what new arrangements will be made. The hon. Member should be patient until the present Senate completes its term when the whole matter will be reviewed.

*Question put and agreed to.*

Resolved: That the Governor's nomination of Mr P. O. Okoro for selection as a Senator be approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Resolved: That the Houses do now adjourn—the House of Chiefs until Monday, 6th April, 1964 and the House of Assembly until 10 a.m. Tomorrow (*The Minister of Education, Dr S. E. Imoke*).

*Adjourned, accordingly, at forty minutes past eleven o'clock a.m.*



EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Monday, 6th April, 1964

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYER

(Mr President *in the Chair*)

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The following Members took and subscribed the Oath required by Law:—

Hon. P. O. Ururuka (Minister of Works).

Hon. D. S. A. Agim (Minister of State, Ministry of Education).

Hon. N. L. P. Apreala (Provincial Commissioner, Degema).

Hon. D. J. Edoho (Provincial Commissioner, Uyo).

Hon. E. D. Sigalo (Provincial Commissioner, Port Harcourt).

Hon. P. G. Warmate (Provincial Commissioner, Yenagoa).

Hon. N. E. Nsan (Provincial Commissioner, Calabar).

Hon. M. C. Awgu (Provincial Commissioner, Abakaliki).

Hon. K. J. N. Okpokam (Provincial Commissioner, Ogoja).

Chief the hon. Ogar Assam (Ikom Division).

Chief the hon. N. Atuma (Abakaliki Division).

**The President:** Hon. Members, I have to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 of the Constitution of Eastern Nigeria, Chief the hon. Edem Ekpenyong Ephraim Adam has, on the 23rd day of March, 1964, taken and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance before the Puisne Judge, Calabar, Mr Justice M. O. Balonwu, as follows:

"I, Edem Ekpenyong Ephraim Adam, swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of Nigeria and that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. So help me God."

ALLOCATION OF SEATS

**The President:** Order! Order! Hon. Members, there are new Members of this

House. This has necessitated a few changes in the allocation of seats to Members and they have been notified of their seat numbers.

DEATH OF MEMBER

**The President:** I regret to have to inform the House of the death of Chief the hon. Joseph Wobo, Second-class Chief for Port Harcourt Division, and I desire, on behalf of this House, to express our deep sense of the loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the late hon. Member. May we, in the usual practice of the House do honour to the dead. Hon. Members should please rise and keep silence for a minute.

(*Hon. Members stood and observed one minute silence.*)

**The President:** May he rest in peace, Amen!

PAPERS

Presented:

1. The Draft Second Supplementary Estimates of Eastern Nigeria, March, 1964 (Official Document No. 11 of 1964). (*The Minister of Finance*).
2. Audit Report 1962-63 (Official Document No. 1 of 1964). (*The Minister of Finance*).
3. The Eastern Nigeria Sports Commission Annual Report, 1960-61. (*The Minister of Education*).
4. Eastern Nigeria Library Board Accounts 1962-63 (Official Document No. 8 of 1964). (*The Minister of Information*).
5. Eastern Nigeria Information Service Corporation Accounts, 1959-60, including Certificate and Report of the Director of Audit, Eastern Nigeria (Official Document No. 4 of 1964). (*The Minister of Information*).
6. Eastern Nigeria Information Service Corporation Accounts, 1960-61, including Certificate and Report of the Director of Audit, Eastern Nigeria (Official Document No. 5 of 1964). (*The Minister of Information*).
7. Audited Accounts, 1961-62, Eastern Nigeria Town Planning Authorities. (*The Minister of Town Planning*).
8. Seventh Annual Report of the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board for the period



- 1st January, 1961 to 31st December, 1961. (*The Minister of Agriculture*).
9. Report of the Accountant-General with Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1963 (Official Document No. 3 of 1964). (*The Minister of Finance*).
  10. Signed copy of the Votes and Proceedings of the Joint Sitting of the Eastern House of Chiefs and the Eastern House of Assembly of 10th March, 1964, containing a Resolution passed by the Joint Sitting approving the Governor's nomination of Mr P. O. Okoro for selection as a Senator, forwarded to the President by the President of the Joint Sitting in accordance with paragraph 5 of Standing Order 76. (*The Minister of Education*).
  11. Draft Estimates of Eastern Nigeria (including Memorandum) 1964-65. (*The Minister of Finance*).
  12. Eastern Nigeria Housing Corporation Annual Report and Audited Accounts, 1961-62. (*The Minister of Commerce*).
  13. First Progress Report, Eastern Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68 (Official Document No. 15 of 1964). (*The Minister of Economic Planning*).
  6. Memorandum on Local Government Estimates, 1963-64.
  7. Eastern Nigeria Industrial Inquiry 1961-62, Statistics Division, Ministry of Economic Planning (Official Document No. 6 of 1964).
  8. Ministry of Internal Affairs, Eastern Nigeria—Annual Report, 1961-62 (Official Document No. 9 of 1964).
  9. Forest Division, Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report, 1962-63 (Official Document No. 10 of 1964).
  10. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Assembly, Official Report, Third Session of the Fifth House of Assembly of Eastern Nigeria, Session (1963-64), First Meeting, 12th March to 10th April, 1963.
  11. Public Service Commission Annual Report, 1962 (Official Document No. 14 of 1964).

Ordered: That the said Papers do lie upon the Table.

**Distributed:**

**The President:** During the Recess a number of Papers were distributed to Members. These Papers are deemed to have been laid upon the Table, and will be entered in the Votes and Proceedings of Today. They are:—

1. Policy for Community Development, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Eastern Nigeria (Official Document No. 27 of 1963).
2. Distribution of Amenities in Eastern Nigeria—Data and Statistics (Official Document No. 20 of 1963).
3. Eastern Nigeria Industrial Directory (Official Document No. 29 of 1963).
4. Ministry of Education Annual Report 1961 (Official Document No. 30 of 1963).
5. Lagos Town Planning (Compensation) Act, 1964.

**REPORTS FROM A SPECIAL  
COMMITTEE**

**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole):** The Joint Public Accounts Committee has agreed upon two Reports, Nos. 3 and 4 of 1963 which I now lay upon the Table of this House.

*Reports to lie upon the Table.*

**MESSAGES FROM THE EASTERN HOUSE  
OF ASSEMBLY**

**(1) Appropriation**

Message on the 1964-65 Eastern Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1964—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly endorsed with the Certificate of the Speaker that the Bill is a Money Bill in accordance with Standing Order 60—read the First time; to be read a Second time Tomorrow.

**(2) Supplementary Appropriation**

Message on the 1963-64 Eastern Nigeria Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1964—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly endorsed with the Certificate of the Speaker that the Bill is a Money Bill in accordance with Standing Order 60—read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.



**(3) Laws of Eastern Nigeria**

Message on the Revised Edition (Laws of Eastern Nigeria) (Amendment) Bill, 1964—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

**(4) Moneylenders Ordinance**

Message on the Moneylenders Ordinance (Amendment) Bill 1964—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

**(5) Local Government**

Message on the Local Government (Extension of Lives of Councils) Bill, 1964—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

**(6) Information Service**

Message on the Eastern Nigeria Information Service (Amendment) Bill, 1964—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

**(7) Agriculture**

Message on the Eastern Nigeria Agricultural (Amendment) Bill, 1964—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Suspension of Standing Order**

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I rise to move, That notwithstanding the provision of paragraph (4) of Standing Order 29—Speech by the Governor—one day shall be allotted for the debate on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Speech.

**The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke):** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

Ordered: That notwithstanding the provision of paragraph (4) of Standing Order 29—Speech by the Governor—one day shall be allotted for the debate on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Speech.

**GOVERNOR'S SPEECH (DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS)**

**The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief S. E. Onukogu):** It is with the greatest pleasure and humility that I rise to move:—

That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Excellency's Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature.

Everyone will agree with me that the 1963–64 financial year was a very successful year from every point of view. Let us pay deserving tribute to His Excellency for his illuminating Speech. His Excellency is God-fearing and is a man who has implicit confidence in God. He is a man who places his Maker before everything he undertakes to do. Eastern Nigeria is singularly lucky in having a person of His Excellency's calibre to be the Governor of the Region. He carries his onerous duties with dignity.

Hon. Members will agree with me that Eastern Nigeria is blessed, that in spite of all odds the Government is forging ahead splendidly. One can say without contradiction that our Government is the most stable Government in the whole of the Federation and the reason for this is the kind of leadership which the Leader of the Government in the person of Dr the hon. Michael Iheonukara Okpara, is giving to his party and people—a conscientious and dynamic leader who is deeply concerned about wiping out poverty and unemployment in the Region. His interest in the common man is proverbial.

In 1963 about 153 Nigerians were recruited to various posts in the senior segment of the Service. He is concerned with the interest of civil servants and his leadership is an inspiration to them.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—Hon. Members will agree with me that much had been done by this Ministry within a short space of time. We thank the hon. Minister of Agriculture and his able staff. Our people have now realized the value of being agriculturists; we want agriculture to be extended to more rural areas since Easterners are becoming more and more conscious of farming. It has lowered the cost



[CHIEF ONUKOGU]

of living to a considerable extent. Ours is a true agrarian revolution for which history will ever remember our Premier.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—It is commendable to note how sensibly and wisely the appointments of Customary Court Judges and matters affecting traditional Chiefs are being handled by this Ministry. Now that every rich man wishes to be known or called a Chief something must be done by this Ministry to distinguish the recognized Chiefs from others who arrogate to themselves the title of Chief.

A badge or a cap or a medal or something else, even at the expense of the recognized Chiefs, may be used as a mark of distinction between the genuine and the spurious Chiefs.

*Ministry of Education.*—I do not see the reason why people should quarrel with the six years' elementary school period when the school syllabus for Standards V and VI are the same. Why do we want the children to waste time and money in elementary schools? Time and money should be saved for higher schools. What we should ask the Government to do is that if a child fails to gain admission into a Secondary School after successfully completing Elementary VI that child should be allowed to repeat his class in the following year. This will enable such a child to keep up his studies and prepare for the next Secondary School entrance examination.

It is not true that religious instruction is not included in the elementary school curriculum. Everyone knows that we cannot make good citizens if religious instructions are not imparted to us early in life. It would be a good thing if children were allowed to attend schools of their parents' or guardians' choice. No one should, directly or indirectly, introduce any religious politics or enmity in this country.

Where a school has more children than the capacity of existing buildings that school may be allowed to expand at its own expense without asking or expecting building and equipment grants from the Government. However, the Government is the best judge in this matter. Government's proposal to control fees in Secondary Schools in Eastern

Nigeria is welcome and we hope that this will be implemented in no distant date. I dissociate myself from the idea that no more Secondary Schools should be opened. This will depend on the areas concerned. The need and the number of our Elementary School leavers in such areas should be taken into consideration.

*Ministry of Information.*—The co-operation of Administrative Officers with the Press is absolutely necessary in order to preach the activities and policies of the Government to the people. The Press is expected to make its own contribution towards the Government's Six-Year Development Programme and it seems to be doing so admirably so far.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—We have nothing to quarrel with this Ministry. We would like to express our satisfaction for the able way in which Local Government Councils are being administered. The fact that the people have nick-named the hon. Minister of Local Government, Chief the hon. J. U. Nwodo, the "People's Minister" is a general acknowledgement and appreciation of his good services to the Region. I appeal to Members to give whole-hearted support to this Ministry through which Government activities and policies reach the doors of the people in the Region.

*Ministry of Works.*—This House appreciates the good work of this Ministry. We hope that each Division is enjoying tarred roads and supply of good water. I do hope that roads will be extended to the poor taxpayers in many rural areas where there are no good roads at present. A case in point is the road starting from Afor-Inyogugu market to Umuhu-Inyogugu-Ngwuma-Ulakwo-Umukwune-Igita-Port Harcourt road. This road is of great commercial value; the villagers are mostly farmers who supply food-stuffs to many places in the Region. The people of the areas concerned are loyal and great supporters of the Government and they are yearning for amenities but have none. It will be a good consolation if they will be encouraged so as to be able to sell their food-stuffs.

*Census.*—I now come to the vexacious and provocative census problem. I want to make it abundantly clear that Members of this hon. House of Chiefs and their people are solidly behind the hon. Premier and his Government



in their stand in this matter. We do not accept the figures as they stand. No amount of intimidation and victimization will move Southerners to accept anything they know that is false and will be detrimental to their interests and to those of their children and generations yet unborn. If any people in the South would be prepared to mortgage their conscience for love of money or position and thereby place the people of the South into perpetual slavery, Easterners should be counted out. Our stand is for truth, honesty and good faith. We are not out for power.

If it is because we have rejected the census figures that our Northern brothers have decided to repatriate Ibos who have lived long in that Region and who had helped in the development of that Region and whose presence added to their population we will leave it to their conscience to judge whether they are doing the right thing. But their action is certainly un-muslim. If and when the Ibos return to their homes in the East, God who created them will surely find them livelihood. We can take it.

We have domiciled Northerners in this Region who enjoy equal rights with us and who are not discriminated against and whose properties are not seized. In Owerri Division, a muslim Northerner was appointed by this Government as a Judge of a Customary Court. What other eloquent testimony can you give for our desire for the unity of Nigeria. Actions speak louder than words. Confidence begets confidence. I think the right thing our Prime Minister should have done before announcing the figures was to consult his brother Premiers. He should have scrutinized the figures with them before his acceptance of the bogus and inflated figures. He should have shown his brother Premiers why the Northern figures which stood at 22 million in 1962 had risen to 29 million in 1963, and why the Eastern figure which was 13 million in 1962 had come down to 12 million in 1963. He should have studied the report of the Census Board with his brother Premiers. We do not reject the figures because we want an Easterner to be the Prime Minister.

We reject the figures because of proven irregularities in the head count resulting in astounding inflations. No honest Nigerian will accept the figures as near accurate. The

well-known quislings and "lick-spittles" who want to be in the good books of their master of the N.P.C. may accept them to their eternal shame. These are the people who are real enemies of Nigerian unity.

Our Prime Minister is loved and respected by every Nigerian. His presence at the Centre has had a steadying influence in the affairs of our great country. He can, if he so wishes, bring sanity to bear upon the census rumpus.

I am not a political scientist but everybody with a modicum of intelligence ought to know that in a Federation where one of the component units is bigger than all the other units put together chaos must in the long run result.

What is unity worth if it is at the price of one Region ruling the country for all eternity. If the worst comes to the worst, we should go our different ways, perhaps to come together sometime again on terms acceptable to all. We charge our Premier and his Government to be resolute and unyielding. May I remind them of the saying that "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance". Let this be their consolation:

"Let Truth and Falsehood grapple  
Who has ever known Truth  
Worsted in such encounter."

*Creation of States.*—It is a well known fact that the N.C.N.C. Government is the only Government in the Federation which had mooted the idea of breaking the country into several states and indeed carved out the Cameroons from the East to be a separate Region. This Government is in support of creating more States or Regions in the Federation and is prepared to do so simultaneously with the other Governments. It is both unwise and unpatriotic for a group of people within our Region to seek the help of outside agencies to dismember the Region and create more states within it whereas other Regions remain intact. It is by this action that we lay ourselves open to attack by the other Regions. A study of the Constitution will convince anybody that no Region can cause the break-up of another Region into States unless the Legislature of the Region concerned gives its approval. Let those who are political commodities to be bought and sold for money take stock of their doings before Nemesis catches up with them.

Our great Party, the N.C.N.C., was inaugurated many years ago with the late Herbert



[CHIEF AMOBI]

considers that something, however small, should be done at least in appreciation and recognition of these free services."

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

*Question proposed.*

*And pursuant to Standing Order 29 (2)—Speech by the Governor—the Debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed upon Wednesday, 8th April, 1964.*

### LAGOS TOWN PLANNING (COMPENSATION) ACT, 1964

**The Premier (Dr M. I. Okpara):** I rise to move, pursuant to Subsection 1 of Section 4 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria,

"That this House consents to the Lagos Town Planning (Compensation) Act, 1964 having effect."

At the last meeting of Parliament, the Federal Government presented a Bill for an Act seeking to make provision for withholding of compensation payable under the Lagos Town Planning Act in respect of estate and interest in land, if such land is vested in the Lagos Executive Development Board for purposes of an approved scheme and if such interest or estate in the land was created on or after the date when the scheme was made. According to the provisions of the Act, no account of such estate or interest shall be taken in determining the amount of, and the person entitled to receive, any compensation unless the President directs otherwise in writing. The Bill was passed by both Houses with the necessary two-third majority and was assented to by His Excellency the President on the 20th of January, 1964.

Section 31 of the Federation of Nigeria Constitution provides that no property movable or immovable shall be taken possession of compulsorily and no right over or interest in any such property shall be acquired compulsorily in any part of Nigeria except by or under the provision of a law that requires the payment of adequate compensation therefor, and gives to any person claiming such compensation a right of access, for the determination of his interest in the property and the amount of

compensation, to the High Court having jurisdiction in that part of Nigeria. The Lagos Town Planning (Compensation) Act, 1964 seeks to amend the provisions of this Section of the Constitution as far as it affects the Federal territory of Lagos and the powers of the Lagos Executive Development Board.

Mr President, the House of Assembly has already passed this motion. This is not a controversial Act and the House should therefore, consent that it should have effect.

**The Minister of Economic Planning (Mr G. E. Okeke)** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

Resolved: That this House consents to the Lagos Town Planning (Compensation) Act, 1964 having effect.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### (1) Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1963-64

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole):** I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor of Eastern Nigeria to move that a Bill for "A Law to make Supplementary Provision for the services of Eastern Nigeria for the year ending on the 31st day of March, Nineteen hundred and sixty-four" be now read a Second time.

The Bill seeks to appropriate the sum of £95,500 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and £284,652 from the Capital Development Fund. Most of this provision is for the purpose of covering advances already made from the Contingencies Fund, and Capital Revotes of unspent provision from the previous year; these advances and revotes have been made since the passing of the first Supplementary Appropriation Law last September.

Hon. Members will observe that the greatest part of the recurrent supplementary provision is for two Ministries, the Ministries of Education and Works. Advances from the Contingencies Fund totalling £25,000 were made to the Ministry of Education to cover examination costs and to make some additional



provision for the teaching of Science in primary schools. The provision for examination costs will be partially offset by increased revenue from examination fees.

The provision of £60,000 for the Ministry of Works is for the purpose of augmenting the Workshop Account. The amount appears large, but this is, in fact, an advantage, since the Workshop Account is not only fully reimbursable but normally makes a considerable profit on the works which it carries out for non-Government Agencies. Thus any expenditure increase means a still greater revenue increase.

On the capital side, about 33 per cent. of the provision, all in the form of Revotes, is for the Ministry of Agriculture, and is shared between two Heads, Agricultural Training Research and Extension, and Animal Health and Husbandry. Most of this provision was for buildings, land acquisition, and equipment in connection with the development projects in this sector of the economy.

The amount of £70,000 was made available to meet part of the costs of the construction work on the new Hotel Presidential at Enugu. When we speak of the necessity of attracting foreign investors, hon. Members will agree that this hotel is a positive step in the right direction and advertises our readiness and determination to industrialize.

Of the remaining capital provision, the major items are for the Ministries of Health and Works. The completion of a number of Ministry of Health projects has involved revotes totalling £47,120 while in the Ministry of Works new provision of £20,000 has been made for extensions to rural water supply projects. Expenditure on these water projects is largely reimbursable by payments from the communities. The amount of £10,500 has been provided for equipment for the Film Unit, and hon. Members will, I am sure, share my belief and hope that this project will soon display some positive achievement.

Hon. Members will agree that this is a straightforward Bill, and I trust that it will receive the unanimous support of the House.

**The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka):** I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*And under Standing Order 77 (2)—Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Bills—the Debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed Tomorrow.*

**(2) Revised Edition (Laws of Eastern Nigeria) (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

This hon. House, at its Budget Meeting in 1961, passed into Law "a Bill to provide for the preparation, printing and publication of the Revised Edition of the Laws of Eastern Nigeria and for connected purposes".

Section 6 (1) of that Law gave the Commissioner power in the preparation of the Revised Edition of the Laws to make an alteration or amendment in the matter or substance of a Law of Eastern Nigeria.

This Bill seeks to amend the Revised Edition (Laws of Eastern Nigeria) Law, 1961.

A revision of laws requires a complete survey of all laws in force at the time. Every such survey brings to light provisions which have become obsolete, provisions which were, or have become inconsistent with other provisions, provisions which need alteration to fit into current circumstances and current means of operating the laws, provisions which owing to constitutional changes or changes in other laws can no longer remain as they were, and so on.

The present revision has brought to light such instances. Most of them concern the Ordinances of the 1948 Edition of the Laws of Nigeria which have effect now as part of the Laws of Eastern Nigeria. Since that 1948 Edition was published, many things have happened. First of all, the Edition has been affected by the Legislation of fifteen years, by Regionalization, by Independence and, finally, by the establishment of the Republic. Instances have also been found in the post-regionalization Laws enacted here in Eastern Nigeria. These were brought about by the constitutional



**Chief R. Ojimba Oraelosi** (Onitsha Division): I rise to support this amendment. I remember that when the Provincial Commissioner visited Onitsha Southern County Council it was one of the questions raised because many people unnecessarily vie for chairmanship of Councils. So I hope that everybody in this House will support the Bill *in toto*.

**Chief E. E. Okpa** (Awgu Division): I rise to support this non-controversial Bill. I wish to ask the Minister in charge if during the lives of certain Councils it will be possible to amalgamate some of the unviable Councils to solve some of the inconveniences at present obtaining in the Region.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

#### (5) Information Service (Amendment) Bill

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Information (Chief E. P. Okoya)**: I beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. As the law stands at present it is obligatory for the Minister to consult the Executive Council before exercising the powers conferred on him by the Law. But there are a number of routine matters of minor importance in which the Minister should be empowered to issue directives without seeking the prior approval of Executive Council. The purpose of amend-

ing the Law is to give the Minister the authority to decide whether a matter on which he is to direct is of sufficient importance to warrant reference to Executive Council.

**The Minister of Town Planning (Mr P. O. Nwoga)**: I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

#### (6) Agricultural (Amendment) Bill

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. N. Okeke)**: I beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. The Bill seeks to enlarge the Board of Agriculture so as to make the official and unofficial membership solely representative of all aspects of agricultural public, including live-stock. In the Law of 1955 no provision was made for unofficial representative of live-stock interests nor was there any reference to the regulation and control of live-stock diseases, pests, feed, etc. The present Bill is flexible enough to include many dynamic representatives of Eastern Nigeria actively participating and interested in farming and rural life. The unofficial membership is therefore to be increased from eight to twelve in order to accommodate these interests.

**The Minister of Local Government (Chief J. U. Nwodo)**: I beg to second.

**Chief Zumoh Efeke V** (Yenagoa Province): I rise to support this Bill but before I make any



comments I have to thank the Government for its activities in the agricultural development of Eastern Nigeria. In this field, I have to say something about the membership of the Board. I have to invite the attention of the Minister concerned that when appointing Board Members, a member be appointed from Yenagoa Province because it appears to be the feeling of the people in the Government that Yenagoa has no land for agriculture and so the Government never think seriously about the activities of farmers in Yenagoa Province. I am therefore only suggesting to the Minister to appoint somebody from Yenagoa to represent the Province on the Board of Agriculture so that that person could bring to the Minister's attention the agricultural importance of Yenagoa Province.

**Chief J. Mpi** (Port Harcourt Province): What I have to say is that when land has been acquired and members are to be appointed, care should be taken to ensure that such members come from that area. They should also be men who are able to serve on the Board. That is the only point I wish to make and I hope the Minister will think about it.

**Chief C. O. Nebe** (Awka Division): In supporting the Bill I have one very important point to make with regard to the appointment of persons to the membership of the Board of Agriculture, and this is in the form of suggestion. I would suggest that only people who own live-stock and people who are truly farmers should be appointed to the Board. They know what is required by agriculturists and are therefore in a position to make effective contributions in the Board's deliberations.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

**The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka):** I beg to second.

## ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

### Robe and Quarters for Mr President

**Chief J. Mpi** (Port Harcourt Province): Mr President, every decent-minded person in this House this morning will agree with me that our hearts are filled with joy to see you dressed in this fitting robe. Now you have come to be a proper President. It does not mean that in the past you were not regarded as the President of this hon. House but there was something lacking. Now you are the President of this Upper House. In saying this I will thank the Government of Eastern Nigeria for their foresight in providing you this golden robe. Everybody who sees you this morning is glad. But, with apologies to the Government, I would like to say that it remains a little bit more. We want the head of the President to be as other parts of his body. I think our Government will look into it and know that this is an Upper House indeed, and that the President should be given every right befitting that position. Some time ago I visited Lagos and was taken round to see the residence of the President of the Senate. I think our Government is one that sets good examples for others to emulate. A befitting quarter should also be given you, especially this time when you look so fine.

**Chief C. E. Amobi** (Special Member): I want to align myself with the last speaker in thanking the Government of Eastern Nigeria for giving you a new look this morning. In fact, when the procession was coming I was happy to identify our President in his flowing robe. I saw a fine and decent man. Hon. Members of the House of Chiefs are very happy that Government has heard our prayers about providing a uniform for the President. As somebody has just said, we would like the uniform of the President to be complete so that any time he comes out he comes out majestically in his golden robe.

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*for Mr President*]

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We have one other request to make for the President which I know after a few weeks' time the Government will harken to, and that is, to provide him with a permanent accommodation. It is no good the President having to send telegrams or messages to Enugu before he gets accommodation each time the House sits; at times the President is placed in a position where he struggles for accommodation with the other Chiefs. I think now that we have the Hotel Presidential which accommodates some foreign visitors, efforts should be made to see that at least a chalet is provided for the President. A house must be provided for him where the President will have full control of the key. He comes in and goes out any time he likes.

**The President:** Hon. Members, may I obtain your permission before I put the question to say that the President has now been robed with a gorgeous and very honourable robe. But I term it the robe of silence! It is not in me to speak because I am the President of this House. What I have to do at this moment is to express my indebtedness to the Government. Every word of appreciation and thanks must go to the hon. Premier and his able Ministers for having considered this hon. House deserving of the first-class honour extended to it as is done all the world over.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned, accordingly, at 12 o'clock noon.*



EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Tuesday, 7th April, 1964

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYER

(Mr President in the Chair)

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The following Members took and subscribed to the Oath required by Law:—

Chief the hon. A. O. Chikwendu (*Provincial Commissioner, Owerri*).

Hon. B. C. Okwu (*Minister of Health*).

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to move, That notwithstanding the provision of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 77—Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Bills—one day shall be allotted for the Second Reading of the 1964–65 Eastern Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1964.

**The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke):** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

Ordered: That notwithstanding the provision of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 77—Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Bills—one day shall be allotted for the Second Reading of the 1964–65 Eastern Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1964.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to move, That the following be elected Members of the Committee of Selection of the Eastern House of Chiefs for the Session 1964–65, pursuant to Standing Order 63 (2)—Committee of Selection:—

Chief J. Mpi.

Chief C. E. Amobi.

Chief F. N. Ogudoro.

Chief A. U. Ukpa.

**The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke):** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

Ordered: That the following be elected Members of the Committee of Selection of the Eastern House of Chiefs for the Session 1964–65, pursuant to Standing Order 63 (2)—Committee of Selection:—

Chief J. Mpi.

Chief C. E. Amobi.

Chief F. N. Ogudoro.

Chief A. U. Ukpa.

**The Minister of Education:** Pursuant to Standing Order 63 (2), the following Members of the Executive Council have been nominated to serve in the Committee of Selection with the hon. Premier as Chairman:—

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief S. E. Onukogu).

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief Douglas Jaja).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) Appropriation Bill, 1964–65

*Order for Second reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole):** I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to move that a Bill entitled:—

“A Bill for a Law to appropriate the sum of Twenty Million, One Hundred and Twenty-four Thousand and Sixty pounds to the Services of the Year ending on the Thirty-first day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-five, to authorize expenditure of Fifteen Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-nine Thousand, Six Hundred Pounds out of the Capital Development Fund, and for other related Purposes”,

be now read a Second time. I am proud to say that we are, in fact, budgeting for a total expenditure of over £37 million including statutory expenditure.

This is the fourth annual budget which I have had the honour of presenting, and the



[MR EMOLE]

first since the Federation of Nigeria became a Republic on 1st October, 1963. It is with justifiable pride that I can announce that our Region entered the Republic with its finances on a very firm footing. As to the future, the only forecast to be made, even by our enemies, is that of continued solvency and greater financial viability.

I do not wish to burden hon. Members with too many details of the performance of previous years. I would just mention that we closed the year 1962-63 with a revenue surplus of £2,158,506, about £700,000 more than I had originally estimated. The opening balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund on 1st April, 1962, was £6,780,399; and so, after taking into account the year's revenue surplus, along with a transfer of £4 million to the Capital Development Fund, our closing balance on 31st March, 1963, was well over £5 million.

Our financial position in the year 1963-64 just ended was very satisfactory, as I forecast in my last Budget Speech. The final figures for the year are not yet available, but the indication is that the budget surplus on the year's account will be over £2 million, compared with the original estimate of only £1.3 million. This is a very welcome improvement. Allowing for a transfer of £2 million to the Capital Development Fund during the year, this means that the revised estimate for the opening balance on 1st April, 1964, still stands at over £5 million.

Our revenue estimate for 1964-65, the new financial year which has just begun, is £23,514,000, a figure which shows a continued healthy rate of growth. £9,060,500 or 38 per cent. of the revenue is from our own Regional sources, while the balance of £14,453,500 or 62 per cent. consists of our statutory share of Federal revenues. The rate of increase of the Regional revenue has been even greater than that of the Federal revenue, both proportionately and absolutely. This is a very significant fact and established our claim for a proper share of external aid.

I do not propose any tax increases or any new tax measures in the new financial year. However, most important increases in Regional revenue will be from income tax collection.

We also hope for a marked improvement in the ordinary Direct Assessment tax collection as well as from P.A.Y.E. tax from salary earners.

Plans have been made to build a number of new Sub-Tax Offices in the more remote rural areas, and there will also be extensions to some existing Tax Offices at Divisional headquarters and to some Motor Vehicle Licensing Offices. All this will help to improve the collection of our revenue, and it is in anticipation of this improvement that I can confidently predict this increased revenue without having to consider the imposition of any other new tax burden whatsoever.

But I have to sound a very serious note of warning at this point. In certain areas of our Region, there have in recent months been some very unpleasant events which have seriously interfered with the progress of tax collection. There have been some cases of vicious physical assaults upon members of my Internal Revenue Division staff and their tax collection Agents, and there have been instances of forgery of tax tickets and motor vehicle licences.

My purpose in bringing this shameful situation to the notice of hon. Members is to make an earnest request for their co-operation, and for the co-operation of all their constituencies, in helping tax collection work in their areas. Tax collection is not, at best, a very pleasant duty, and there is a strong obligation on all Chiefs and other Parliamentarians, Administrative Officers, other Civil Servants, Local Government Councillors and other leading personalities to ensure that everything is done to safeguard the lives and property of all those engaged in this arduous but vital task. Hon. Members will appreciate that there can be no amenities without revenue.

I now turn to the recurrent expenditure estimates. We have budgeted for an expenditure of £21,983,570, an increase of about £1.6 million over the approved estimates for the year just ended. In keeping with our policy of eliminating all unnecessary and wasteful expenditure, we have held the expenditure estimates of most of the executive Ministries to a level not greatly above the 1963-64 estimate. Such increases as have occurred are mainly under two major Ministries—Finance and Education—and I will say a word about each of these.



Under my own Ministry, about one-third of the increase is attributable to the Internal Revenue Division. I have already spoken about income tax collection, and I think hon. Members have taken the point. The rest of the increase under my own Ministry is for common services such as postal, telegraph and telephone costs, which are borne under one head for the whole Government. Another considerable increase, of £426,360 occurs under Public Debt Charges, also controlled by my Ministry; this is inevitable, as we have to meet our obligations on loans. Finally, the increase under the Ministry of Education is the consequence of increased Grants-in-Aid towards primary education, in pursuance of my Government's decision to extend free education to Elementary Class III and to reduce the A.L.C. factor from thirty-six to thirty.

As I have already remarked, our opening balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund on 1st April, 1964 is estimated at over £5 million, or to be precise, £5,186,968. To this we must add the budget surplus of £1,620,430 estimated for the financial year now beginning, obtaining the total of £6,807,380 as the estimated balance on the Consolidated Revenue Fund at 31st March, 1965. This is a very healthy figure, and I therefore propose to transfer no less than £3 million to the Capital Development Fund; provision for this transfer is made in section 4 of the Appropriation Bill now before you.

I would now draw your attention to our Capital Budget. I do not wish to go into excessive detail, but I cannot fail to mention the principal features of this year's Capital Estimates. We are budgeting for receipts of £10,794,600, and the details are shown at page E 173 of the Draft Estimates. I have already mentioned the amount of £3 million to be transferred from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and there will also be £2 million from the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board, £2 million as our share of the Republic Development Loan, and £500,000 as grants from the Federal Government. Most of the balance will be accounted for by loans and grants from external sources, which are going to become more and more important to us, and in fact to all the other Governments of the Federal Republic, as time goes on.

Estimated capital expenditure is put at £15,579,600 and the usual substantial pro-

portion has been devoted to primary production under the Ministry of Agriculture, as the details under Heads 801 to 807 inclusive make clear. Under Head 808—Trade and Industry—provision of over £2.4 million has been made, virtually all of which has been earmarked for investment in industrial projects. These amounts represent the capital investment for the year in the two great priorities of our Development Plan, the agricultural and industrial sectors.

But we have not by any means forgotten the social services, secondary though they may seem to agriculture and industry. About £2.3 million has been set aside for roads and bridges, of which £1 million is for new roads; and over £3.1 million has been provided for water supplies, again with £1 million for new schemes. Over £1.6 million is being provided for development in the field of education, and £100,000 for loans to Local Government bodies.

Altogether, the Capital Budget for the year which we have just entered provides further solid evidence of our Region's sound financial position. There is no doubt that the apparent gap between estimated receipts and estimated expenditure will be bridged, in practice, as it has always been, by new resources and by adjustments in the level of spending as we go along; and hon. Members will in fact see, at page E. 172 of the Draft Estimates, that we expect to end the year with a small but definite credit balance in the Capital Development Fund.

Before concluding my speech, I must pay tribute to the staff of my Ministry, and to the Government Printer and his staff, for the many days and nights of unremitting toil that have gone into the preparation of these Estimates. Hon. Members will agree that the job has been well done.

Mr President, I have shown, I think, that the bright hopes which I expressed in my last Budget Speech were founded on something much more than grandiose dreams, something much more than mere aspirations in the void. Our people of Eastern Nigeria are distinguished for their realism, their energy, and their democratic ideals; and when we say we are going to achieve great things, it is not idle talk. We have already gone far, limited as our



[MR EMOLE]

resources have been, and we intend to go much further yet. It may be that our share of Federal revenues is sometimes disappointing, it may be that our friends abroad are not always able to grant their promised aid as early as we have hoped for it. But whatever else may happen, one thing is certain: our people of Eastern Nigeria will continue their self-reliant advance, and nothing will stop them. The Easterner, as I have said, is a realist; and it is to this sense of realism that I appeal in presenting to the people of Eastern Nigeria "The Pragmatic Budget".

**The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke):** I beg to second.

*Question proposed and under paragraph (2) of Standing Order 77—Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Bills—the Debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed on Thursday, 9th April, 1964.*

**(2) Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1963-64)**

(ONLY ALLOTTED DAY)

*Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (6th April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

*Question again proposed.*

**Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province):** I do not want to waste much time on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, but I have a few points to make. In the first place, I would like to say that our Government is doing the right thing and I hope it will continue to do so. I also want to say that I am very happy indeed to see what the Government was able to do during the past year and for whatever sum it wants to supplement, the Members of this House will happily support it.

Turning to the Ministry of Finance, I am very happy to hear the hon. Minister say that this year is a very good one. Of course, more roads have been constructed and water supplied to rural areas, and bridges built. I want to say a little bit more to support what was said here yesterday.

I want to remind the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs that his Ministry

is doing well but there is one point to mention. The Customary Courts are dead. This is because there are no warrants for arresting offenders and before a warrant can be obtained from distant places, the offenders usually run away.

**The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs (Mr O. U. Affiah):** The Government has taken care of that. We have put things right.

**Chief Mpi:** I am very happy to hear that.

Examining the work of the Government—both past and present—I think there is room for more to be done as far as the hon. Chiefs here are concerned. The point I am trying to make is that some of us here could be made Ministers without Portfolio as is the practice in other places. It is high time something was done to bring us in line with other Chiefs. I hate this once-I-am-all-right-I-don't-care-what-ever-happens attitude. We do not want everybody here to be a Minister, but there is no reason why there should not be at least six Ministers without Portfolio from among us. I hope the Government has taken note of this.

With your permission, Sir, may I refer to page 8 of the *Nigerian Outlook* of 8th February, 1964, under the caption "NEW MINISTERS". Part of the publication reads,

"The Government Whip in the Houses of Chiefs and Assembly are—Chief I. Akiri and Sylvester Akpenyi of Agbor respectively."

This is in the newly born Mid-Western Nigeria, and N.C.N.C. controlled Government! But in this Government, one of the oldest Governments of the Federation, we have nothing like that. The Government must take a very serious view of this situation. After all, we Chiefs are doing our best, helping the Government to stand in the face of any threats. I do not, therefore, see any reason why we should be neglected. I appeal to the Government to look into this and take appropriate action.

Going through the Draft Estimates now under consideration, you will see the conspicuous gap between the emoluments of the President of the House of Chiefs and the Speaker of the House of Assembly. We do not wish to criticize the Government on this, but in fairness to the President, I think the gap should be reasonably bridged.



I do not want to go too far, but I would like to suggest that the austerity measures be removed to enable Members of this hon. House receive their full entitlement. When things were bad and we were called upon to make sacrifices, we did so without grumbling. These austerity measures are not meant to last perpetually, and since we have now endured the burden for a long time, I am calling upon the Government to relax the tension.

I hope the Government takes note of the points I have made this morning, because we would like to see these improvements reflected in the Estimates as soon as possible. When I advocate the appointment of Chiefs as Ministers without Portfolio, etc., I do not mind who and who are appointed. Confidence begets confidence and I hope our Government will be prepared to play their part in this respect; it is only then and then only that brotherhood of man will become a reality.

**Chief A. U. Ukpa** (Eket Division): I rise to support the 1963-64 Supplementary Appropriation Bill and to make the following observations.

Firstly, I have to thank the hon. Minister of Finance for the way in which he handles the finances of the Region. There is one serious point, however, about the Internal Revenue Division of his Ministry; the question of junior officers on tax collection schedule. Although it is true to say that if officers collecting tax stay in a certain station for a long time they get all the experience and become familiar with the environment and this will probably accelerate the collection of tax, there are other disadvantages. These officers become too familiar with the people and eventually tend to abuse their office by indulging in corrupt practices. May I refer to Eket Division. We have an Internal Revenue staff who has been in the Division for over ten years. This year, but for the efforts of mine and other Chiefs as well as tax agents, tax collection in the area would have been very much impeded. I would suggest that no officer connected with the collection of tax should be allowed to stay too long in a station.

*The Ministry of Works.*—With happiness and joy, I wish to record the appreciation of my people to the Minister of Works and his staff

for the tarring of the Eket-Oron road. This road had been a menace to the citizens of Eket but now it stands as a pleasing edifice to people who have the opportunity of visiting Eket. When the Action Group was in control in this area we hardly saw any progress, but now the N.C.N.C. Government has proved its love for the people of Eket Division. When we go back to the people we now have something to tell them.

But one thing remains. We would like to see an industry mounted in Eket. This will convince the people the more that the Government caters for their interest.

May I, at this moment, associate myself with the sentiments expressed on the floor of this House yesterday about the President of this House. Since the inauguration of the Eastern House of Chiefs on the 8th of January, 1960, yesterday saw the President of this House, Chief the hon. Nyong Essien, the Ozom of Uruan, in his majestic and attractive robe. While thanking the Government for this, I would like to see him in his complete outfit. When the President of the Federal Republic was President of the Senate, he was provided with quarters. When he vacated the seat in the Senate and moved to State House, his quarters went to his successor, Chief Osadebay now Premier of the Mid-West. The house is now occupied by Dr Orizu who is the present President of the Senate. I see no reason why our own President should not be provided with suitable permanent accommodation. This will minimize the amount of inconvenience which he experiences each time the House sits.

Yesterday also, was a great day when the new Obong of Calabar came into this House. I congratulate the Government on the way the Inquiry was conducted for the selection of this Chief, whose appearance in the House yesterday completed the number of eight Traditional Rulers as provided in our Constitution.

I would like to express our appreciation of the way Government is tackling the various needs of the Region. I do hope they will give a serious thought to the submissions of the hon. Chief who spoke before me and do something more for the Chiefs of this Region. We stand solidly behind the Government.



**Chief F. N. Ogudoro** (Aba Division): I have a few words to say on the census before I go over to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. We have all heard the Premier's statement on the census—we have our seven articles of faith on the census—that being the case, I am appealing to this hon. House that everybody should stand firm with the hon. Premier and the Government on the census issue. I am to say, however, that we have not got anything provided for us to fight the question of census. I am standing here to say that the Premier has got people behind him and I am prepared to donate £1,000 for the census issue.

*Ministry of Finance.*—I have to thank this Ministry for the able way it has handled the finances of this Region.

But there is something I want to say about Revenue Collectors. These people are never safe in the discharge of their official duties. I do not know in what way this matter is being handled. On many occasions we hear that tax collectors are attacked and wounded with matchets. Sometime ago at Aba, I saw somebody running after a tax collector with matchet. It is good for constables to be provided for these people so that their lives can be safe. We are talking about increase of our revenue; we cannot increase revenue without these tax collectors. I wish to emphasize that arrangements should be made to safeguard the lives of the tax collectors.

*Ministry of Education.*—It is a most embarrassing thing to note that sometime ago a group of people passed a vote of no confidence in the Minister of Education. That is nonsense. That should not have happened at all. We know that the man is very honest and is merely carrying out the Government policy.

I am suggesting that more money should be allocated to this Ministry in order to finish up other remaining matters. We have been wasting a lot of money on Primary Education; that is a thing we must do. I am praying, therefore, that more money should be voted for this Ministry.

*Ministry of Information.*—There has been alarming information sometime ago from overseas as regards assassination of Presidents. I personally do not like it. If a President is

killed overseas, the news should not be announced here in Nigeria. If some one steals overseas, there is no need spreading the news here in Nigeria. I say so because it will serve us no useful purpose; rather it will teach our people how to kill and also how to steal. Our own Ministers and Premiers are very safe and we do not want the spreading of such news that will only make our people imitate bad things. The people over there are not wise, although they claim to be. If they were wise, they would not kill their Presidents.

*Ministry of Works.*—The Minister of Works has been doing very good work. If the Minister had been a Sergeant, he should be promoted an Inspector; if an Inspector, he should be made an A.S.P. This man has been doing his work very well. I am suggesting that more money should be voted for the Ministry so that he may go ahead with the provision of more roads and pipe-borne water. Road and water are very important. But if we must get these, then we have to make more money available for this Ministry. Most of us in the rural areas are drinking mud water and I am suggesting that the Minister should be encouraged to provide us with pipe-borne water.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—I feel, that the judges are poorly paid. More money should be given to that Ministry to see that the judges are well paid so that they may be free from all kinds of temptation.

I know that corruption will be very difficult to get rid of. But let us give the judges more money so that they will be able to manage somehow.

*Ministry of Internal Affairs.*—I pray that the Minister should create offices for some Standard Six school leavers. Not all of us can send our children to secondary schools. I feel that some offices should be left open for these people so that when they come out they can get, say, one shilling or two shillings a day to help themselves. Also I am suggesting that small industrial institutions should be opened in order to help these boys. Some other commercial colleges as proposed by some individuals to open, such as that of Anthony Commercial College and C.I.C. at Aba, should be encouraged. If such institutions are opened, children could



go there and study. The Ministry of Internal Affairs should co-operate with the Ministry of Education so that such institutions will be encouraged.

I hope that hon. Ministers and the hon. Premier will not be annoyed when we demand such things as more roads, pipe-borne water, and industries. If we must have a welfare state, we must have to provide, to some extent, some of these vital amenities. I have got to ally myself with most of the points touched by Chief Mpi. I am saying that something should be reduced from the social service scheme and transferred to trade and industry while leaving enough to welfare schemes.

We are proud of the Region and we are very happy to thank the Premier for the way he has handled the census issue. Long live our Premier to see the chickens he has hatched.

**Chief J. U. U. Ebong** (Abak Division): Before I contribute to the debate, I feel I should make certain observations. In the first place, I ask for permission to refer to the census controversy. As a Member for Abak Division, I have to say that the people in Abak Division support the hon. Premier's stand on the census that the figures, as published, must be rejected. Secondly, I wish to point out to the Minister of Justice the position of things at Abak as regards prisoners awaiting trial.

During our session sometime ago, I made a suggestion here that a full-time Magistrate should be posted to Abak Division. I made this request on the ground that there were so many people awaiting trial in the Abak Divisional Prison.

The Magistrate who travels always from Ikot Ekpene to Abak, and sometimes from Uyo to deal with cases at Abak, has much work to do. One day, when I inspected the Prison at Abak, I saw twenty-two persons awaiting trial. Some of these have remained in the Prison sometimes for nine months without being tried. You will agree with me that when they are brought up for trial and they are not found guilty we cannot say that they have not served imprisonment.

I suggest that the Minister should make every effort to post a full-time Magistrate to Abak.

During the last sitting, I requested that certain bridges in Abak Division should be constructed. I have, of course, to thank the Minister of Works and the Regional Government for the improvement they have already made in the whole Region, but I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to the roads in Abak Division. I should say that no road in Abak Division has been tarred at all. I take this opportunity to ask that every effort should be made to see that the road from Abak Station should link up with the road from Aba to Opobo at Ikparakwa, and that this road be tarred.

Again, I suggest that another road from Ikwek to Etim Ekpo should be included in the Development Programme. The road from Abak Station to Ikot Okoro should join up with the road from Abak to Opobo at Urua Anwa.

I request that the bridge at the Provincial Farm Obioakpa be constructed. If this road is not constructed the bridge at Ikot Okoro will be useless.

**Chief E. O. Atakpa** (Enyong Division): I rise to support the 1963-64 Supplementary Appropriation Bill. While doing so I have a few observations to make on the matter of (1) Census and (2) Fundamental Human Rights.

My people and I support the stand of the Eastern Nigeria Government on the 1963 census published recently. As a representative of my people, if it were alleged that I had stolen the Council's fund, I would have a case to answer. I say this because the Prime Minister himself cannot run away from the census allegation. He has to declare his stand either publicly or in the parley of his brother-Premiers. Our Legislature has rejected the census and there is no going back. There is an allegation that the Federal Government has accepted the inflated census figures. It is true that the census figures have been inflated. The Prime Minister should be well advised to reject the figures. In the interest of peace in this our Republic of Nigeria the census issue should be investigated so that it may be proved whether or not the Prime Minister has a case to answer. The voice of the minority must be respected on a major issue such as this. Whether or not the majority Governments have accepted the census does not close the



[CHIEF IHENACHO]

I would like to congratulate the Minister of Education. He and his Ministry have done the best that can be expected of them in education matters in this Region. I am appealing to him not to be disturbed by criticisms from those I would describe as denominational war wagers. I am sure members of the Cabinet of this Government realize their worth and they know that surely even our Lord Jesus Christ could not please everybody; so the Minister cannot satisfy everybody. All I wish him to do is what is legally and morally right; he should leave the rest to God.

I would also like to say that the Government of Eastern Nigeria, has been good and will continue to be good, and I think it will not be out of place if I say that the other recognized Chiefs, who are not Members of this hon. House, ought to be catered for somehow. I believe it is meaningless to say: "This is a chief" and leave him at that mere name—no reward to receive. I think if something is done for them we shall have done some duty to ourselves and to our brothers who are not here.

I would like to align myself with what Chief the hon. Mpi said about our position. I think we have capable men among our Chiefs to be Leaders of the House, to be Whips of the House of Chiefs. If these posts were not in other Regions I think it would not have been necessary for us to ask for them, but since all these posts exist in other Regions, there is no reason why it should be excluded from ours here.

With these few remarks—since other people wish to speak—I wholeheartedly support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

**Chief N. N. Anyika** (Onitsha Province): Before I support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill I have a few remarks to make especially on the point of warning given to this hon. House by the Minister of Finance. I have to thank him for saying the way and manner the lives of the team of tax collectors in the various Divisions should be secured. It is the Government that will do this. In the year 1927, I was a tax collector. When collecting tax there was no trouble. The names of the people to collect taxes and their addresses should be properly written in the office and each town should be informed the

number of persons to collect Schedules 1, 2 and 3 taxes. When Government, without any information, sends a team of tax collectors to a town, they are new-comers; they do not know anybody and they will be attacked in the town, especially by those from the townships because it is from there that evil comes.

I am appealing to the Government to appoint good persons to collect this Schedule I tax from each town as the tax agents are appointed from each town. During elections, some tax collectors are not voted for because their work makes them enemies of people.

The Government of Eastern Nigeria has selected the proper Ministers and there will be no need for us to praise them now because we know most of them have been Ministers for long. They are very active in their jobs.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—Another thing I have to say is about prolonging the lives of the County Councils. I have to congratulate the Minister of Local Government for this. But the Presidents of these Councils should be given more powers to correct some of the bad things which are going on in the different County Councils. At present some Presidents are not known in the Councils; they are looked down because they are not allowed to take part in debates. A President will only give advice and he is not respected because he has no executive powers. Some of the Chiefs are neglected in many things. When the Divisional Officer or someone is visiting the town the Chiefs may not be told.

I am sorry some of the Ministers are not here. Many of them have left; but it is better for them to remain and hear everyone of us. We are not here to turn down the Bills; we are here to bless the resolutions passed by the Lower House. But we have to say something so that when a Minister wants to deal with anything he will have to be very careful in doing it.

*Ministry of Works.*—Another thing is about roads and bridges. I am appealing to the Minister of Works to look into the construction of Otal, Ogoji and Umuomaku bridges. Government agreed to help in building these bridges and some materials were sent for the construction but up till now nothing has been done. The Aguata County Council agreed to help, but the Government has failed to play its



part. The towns beyond Orumba and Ogboji linked by the two bridges are very important towns. I appeal to the Government to see about them.

I know the question of communication is a Federal matter. I am talking about telephone or Post Office. Whenever any important thing is done and you want to send an urgent message to anybody at Enugu or Awka, it will not be possible because there is no telephone service. I appeal to the Government to bring this to the notice of the Federal Government.

*Census.*—I am ashamed to say that we are blaming only the Northerners and are not blaming our members of the Census Board. Our representatives on the Census Board were there when the preliminary figures were published. The Government should in future be careful when selecting members of Boards like this. I am very sorry to say this but if it is a rude remark, I will withdraw it.

*Ministry of Works.*—Another point is water supply to some areas. Bore-holes are being built at Aguata and we do not know when the parts will arrive. The people have contributed about £3,000 into the Sub-Treasury, Awka, and they want to know when this work will be done.

Another point I want to make is about highway robbers in Onitsha township and along the roads. Police Posts should be built about ten miles apart on the major roads to check these *Abanidiegwus*. If this is done they will not molest the lives and property of traders and others who use these roads.

I want to talk about the traditional rulers. Everyone in the town wants to be called a Chief. As a result you do not know who to recognize.

The way certain Chiefs are appointed is responsible for the many things going wrong. Once you recognize a Chief you have to make sure that he is from the ruling family and influential too. Some of us are asking for Third and Fourth-class Chiefs to be appointed and recognized through whom messages should be communicated to the natural and traditional rulers or Chiefs. Every stomach wants something to eat and sometime in future these

Third- and Fourth-class Chiefs will ask for something to be paid to them. Government has many things to do and to look after but the Chiefs should always be borne in mind. They will be responsible for bringing to the notice of their traditional Chiefs, any announcements of importance and this will help to make Government's task easy. In the olden days, warranted Chiefs were very much respected. This should also apply in these present days. Presidents of County Councils should be given more powers to exercise in the Councils. Disobedient Chiefs' appointments should be terminated.

**Chief G. A. Ikibah, M.B.E.** (Brass Division): I rise to support the Supplementary Estimates for 1963-64, and in doing so, I have a few suggestions to make. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister of Works on behalf of my people for expanding creek service to Odi. This was the request of my people; it was put forward and the Minister has done the work. We are very grateful to him and the Government.

The second thing is the Imbiama-Yenagoa road. To the same Ministry, I would say that the work there is too slow. It is only a matter of twenty-one miles and I do not see why it should take many years to complete. Very soon some of the Ministers will be going there and they will have to see for themselves. That means that if it is not completed in time, our Ministers will be travelling on bad road. I am therefore urging the Minister to do his utmost to ensure that the work is completed before long.

From the Supplementary Estimates, it is noticed that £60,000 was overspent. If some of these had been applied to the Imbiama-Yenagoa road, it should have been completed before this time but the money was spent for other purposes. I think the Minister will look into this matter so that the work does not linger any longer.

Going further, I would like to say something about the Posts and Telegraphs facilities to hon. Members. The ruling as far as I know is that we send our letters and telegrams free of charge if they are addressed to the Clerk of the House. Telephone calls are also sent free of charge provided they are addressed to the Clerk of the House. These are not sufficient



[CHIEF IKIBAH]

because we, as representatives of our people, sometimes have other important matters to report to other officials of Government and in doing so we have been asked to pay for the expenses out of our pockets. I would like Government to take note of this and extend the facilities to communications to other officials with whom we have to deal. If for example I want to communicate with the Provincial Commissioner I should enjoy the privilege of free postage provided the subject matter is of public interest. Hon. Members will agree with me that it is essential that this privilege is extended to cover other officials.

Before I go to another point, I would like to touch the census. This is an opportune time for everybody to say his mind. I say that any Nigerian, not only the Easterners, who does not support the rejection of the 1963 census figures is an enemy of truth. He is an enemy of truth because it is clear that something went wrong in the conduct of the census. This happened in 1962 and it was rejected and cancelled. Why then now when there are glaring cases of inflations and irregularities should we not support our able Premier? It is clear that the figures have been inflated. My people support the Premier and his Government and to substantiate that I speak on behalf of my people, I will read a copy of a telegram from the Brass area to the hon. Premier supporting the move he and his Government are making. With your permission, I beg to read:

“Eastern Premier Enugu; Central Ijaw Congress and Kolokuma/Opokuma Peoples Congress both Cultural Organizations in Brass Division appreciate and support the stand taken by your Government over the 1963 Population Census continue fight courageously to its bitter end truth though bitter prevails at the end we are solidly behind you

CHIEF IKIBAH, *President*

CHIEF ISELE, *Secretary*”.

We are not going to relent because reasons have been adduced that cannot be taken lightly. In the case of the 1962 census, the reasons were not even made public; our stand in this case is justified when every person is aware of our reasons. We are solidly behind the Government and they should fight to its bitter end.

Another thing is the trouble throughout the Region which, of course, has been noticed by the Government. This is about land disputes between one village and another, one family and another, etc. Since the Government is trying to take steps I would suggest that all lands outside the townships be converted to communal lands and be controlled by the Councils. (*Shouts of No from all sides of the House*). I think this will greatly help the situation. I would like this to be considered because it will be a nice thing and, in my opinion, unless you try it you will not know. In the township you go to a Government Department and pay what Government wants and get the land. If these lands are converted into communal lands we will make better use of the lands than fighting over it.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—Although I have posed a question, I will still say that my people of Brass Division appeal to the Government that a Farm Settlement be given to them. It is not true that we have no land; we have offered Government land and have invited them to come and inspect the land, but they have not come. (*Some hon. Members: They are coming there soon on tour, they will see it*). We do not want to be the last; we should not be given just at the last moment.

Another point is that it is noticed that in the Public Service there will be competitive examination. This is very good but I want to call upon Government to see to it that only people of integrity are in charge of this examination so that when the results are out nobody will grumble and there will be no question of favouring John and putting away James when James is sure he has done the right thing.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time.*

*And it being certified a Money Bill—Question: That the Bill be committed deemed to have been negatived.*

*Question—That the Bill be now read the Third time put forthwith and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*



**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

I want to seize this opportunity to announce that there will be a meeting of the Select Committee immediately after the adjournment.

**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole):** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned, accordingly, at twelve o'clock noon.*



EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Wednesday, 8th April, 1964

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYER

(Mr President in the Chair)

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The following Member took and subscribed the Oath required by Law:—

Dr the hon. N. Otue (Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture).

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to report that the Committee of Selection met in the Committee Room of the House of Assembly on Tuesday, 7th April, 1964, and made the following nominations to various Committees of the House for the 1964-65 Session:

(i) **Standing Orders Committee:**

President (*Chairman*).  
Deputy President.  
Minister of Town Planning.  
Chief A. A. Ekwebelem.  
Chief J. A. Anigor.  
Chief P. N. Abue.

(ii) **House Committee:**

Minister of Internal Affairs (*Chairman*).  
Chief Angus Ilonze.  
Chief P. U. Obodoeze.  
Chief S. A. Essien.  
Chief S. N. Okore.  
Chief J. D. Agba.

(iii) **Public Petitions Committee:**

Minister of Information (*Chairman*).  
Chief S. A. Ike.  
Chief J. Nwosu, M.B.E.  
Chief N. N. Anyika.  
Chief E. O. Atakpa.  
Chief F. O. J. Allagoa, M.B.E.  
Chief G. A. Ikibah.

(iv) **Committee of Privileges:**

Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs (*Chairman*).

Chief E. Nnaji.  
Chief E. E. Okpa.  
Chief E. W. D. Pepple.  
Chief Ogba Ekerigwe.  
Chief R. A. Ukwu.  
Chief A. K. C. Nosike.

(v) **Statutory Corporations Committee:**

Minister of Commerce (*Chairman*).  
Chief N. U. Ofem, M.B.E.  
Chief J. U. U. Ebong.  
Chief H. I. Akwitti.  
Chief S. O. Ezenwa.  
Chief G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E.  
Chief S. B. Maeba.

(vi) **Public Accounts Committee:**

*Chairman*—To be nominated by the President.  
Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.  
Chief C. E. Amobi.  
Chief A. U. Ukpa.  
Rev. and Chief F. N. Ogudoro.

**The President:** Hon. Members, in accordance with Standing Order 79, I have pleasure to announce that I have reappointed Chief the hon. J. N. Mpi as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

ORDER OF THE DAY

**Governor's Speech (Debate on the Address)**

(ONLY ALLOTTED DAY, PURSUANT TO ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF 6TH APRIL)

*Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (6th April):*

That this House expresses its Loyal and Dutiful Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature.

*Question again proposed.*

**The President:** Hon. Members, yesterday, many Members contributed to the debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. As you will have noticed, I allowed them much freedom in their speeches and some of the things they said were not appropriate to the



debate. We have only one day for the debate on the Address and only those Members who did not speak yesterday will be called up to speak to the Motion. I have before me a list of all the Members who spoke yesterday and also of those who have given the Secretary their names to be called upon today.

**Chief E. U. Dureke** (Owerri Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature on the 10th March, 1964. In doing so, I have three observations to make.

I have to thank the Premier of this Region and his able Cabinet members for the way they have handled the affairs of this Region. I have to express my profound appreciation and gratitude to the Government for its agrarian revolution and pragmatic socialism. They have been able to distribute amenities to all the nooks and corners of this Region and this has lessened unemployment problem in the Region.

**The President:** Order! I will limit speeches for every Member to ten minutes this morning so that all may have equal chance.

**Chief Dureke:** Turning to the census figures released recently, we the Chiefs of this Region are solidly behind the Premier in his stand on rejecting the figures. I want to say too that the people of Owerri will not hesitate to follow in any measure to see that peace and tranquility is maintained in the Federation of Nigeria as far as the census figures are concerned.

I have to thank the Minister of Education for the able way he has handled all that happened during recent times and replied to all the allegations levelled against him. I want to appeal to the Government to do all it can to vote more money for the Ministry of Education because we the people in the rural areas are very much interested in educating our children. We used to brag when we educate our children up to Standard VI level and if more money is given to that Ministry, it will give more chance to people to educate their children. I am also appealing to Government to see to it that children who fail to pass their Standard VI examination are allowed to repeat the examination. This will give them the opportunity to pass the examination and enable them

to find employment in establishments like the Police, the Army and the Local Government bodies.

I want to refer now to the Ministry of Works. I have to thank the Minister for being able to tar almost all the major roads in the Region. I will, however, remind him of one of the oldest and major roads in Owerri which requires tarring. It is the Owerri—Obaku—Ejemekwuru—Oguta road. If this road is tarred it will help the people of the area in distributing cash crops to other areas of the Region. There is another road which requires the attention of the Minister of Works. It is the road joining Afor Inyogugu market to Umuhu—Ngwoma—Olakwo—Umuekwune—Igrita—Port Harcourt road. If this road is tarred, it will also facilitate the evacuation of cash crops in the Region.

Referring to the Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, I must say that the Chiefs of this Region are very much annoyed with many quack chiefs who have been seeking notice in the Region due to their wealth. I suggest to Government that unless one is a recognized First-class or Second-class Chief one should not be labelled with the name "Chief". The one can be a titled man and that will be all, but should not call oneself a Chief because that is a different thing. Some people have been bragging for power. We do not know who is Chief and who is not. Most chiefs are not able to come here due to lack of clarity or financial background. This enables some rich men to answer Chiefs and come here. I am therefore appealing to Government to protect Chiefs.

Furthermore, some of our Chiefs are not here and I would like Government to find out how they maintain themselves and feed. Government should find out what is their stand, what they do, and how they can be helped to maintain their dignity and prestige by way of granting them allowances. Some of the Chiefs are not members of the Customary Courts. They only go to the Councils and there they receive only 15s allowance. That is not enough. Some of us have so many wives and children and for a Chief to maintain himself, his family, his dignity and be able to entertain guests, he must need Government assistance.

**Chief J. J. Ogbulafor** (Bende Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His



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Excellency for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech. In doing so, I have a few remarks to make. I would like the hon. President to reconsider the ten minutes allowed each Member to speak today. I am inclined to think that those who speak today will not speak tomorrow and, therefore, I appeal to the President to extend the time to twenty minutes.

What impresses me more in the Speech of the Governor is that the Government of Eastern Nigeria has wisely refused the 1963 preliminary census figures. This is a very important matter and anybody who has got brain and blood in him will see that this Region is right in its stand behind the Premier in rejecting the census figures. Look at Northern Nigeria. Yesterday they said that they were not ready for self-government. They now want to rule us. We do not want to rule anybody and we must not allow anybody to rule us. We must not allow any Region to dominate the other. Are we going to accept black imperialism? The answer is obviously no.

I now want to refer to our Ministers. We do not see our Ministers in time here and there is nobody to call them. How can they take note of what we are saying in this House if they are not present? Of course, the Minister of Education is here but that is not enough.

Referring to the Ministry of Justice, it is high time the Minister checked his people. About two months ago, we heard that a High Court Judge of this Region offered two scholarships to Northern Nigeria; that is a way of supporting the census figures and their boasts. (*Some hon. Members: No. One Nigeria*).

*Ministry of Finance.*—This Ministry has been doing well. I have the pleasure to express my gratitude for the way and manner it has been handling the revenue of the Region. I congratulate the Internal Revenue Division of the Ministry for the way they collect revenue. I ask the Ministry to build more centres in the rural areas for tax collection.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—It is a pity the Minister is not here.

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture (Dr N. Otue):** I am here.

**Chief Ogbulafor:** This Ministry is very important. The Minister should not take everything for granted. At Calabar today, the C.O.P. are cutting down their economic trees and planting rubber because the Eastern Region does not allow them to ship their oil straight to the United Kingdom in order to have world price. Now they go back and buy wild palm fruits outside to compete with Pioneer Oil Mills and the E.N.D.C. They do not produce plantation oil, rather they produce S.P.O. I am asking the Minister to take immediate step to see that they stop buying wild fruits, or if they buy them, should not claim any premium from the Marketing Board. This Board is very important. It has helped us to build the University of Nigeria.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—I stand here to warn all our First-class Chiefs that we should not be washing our dirty linen outside. The ideology of the Government today is to create more states. There is no reason why any of us should go to the Federal Government seeking for another state. We should respect this Region and our Ministers because they are able men. Our Ministers are not people who jump from tree to tree in order to get money. If they want to become millionaires they could do so in a day. But they do not want to because they want to respect this Region. We should now respect ourselves.

*Ministry of Health.*—I have nothing to say against the Minister. He is an able man.

There is, however, one point I want to raise and that is the building of 500-bed mental hospital at Oji River. In the first instance, I think the Minister may know the cause of mental illness. Mental illness is caused by pressure in the industrial cities and not in the rural areas, and to cure this illness, it is a question of after treating the patients, they are allowed to go to their relatives and while there, the doctors will visit them and advise them, when necessary, to go to the hospital for treatment.

**The Minister of Health (Mr B. C. Okwu):** Point of explanation. I would like to put the hon. Chief into proper perspective. There is a planned mental hospital at Oji River which is intended to be a centre for research and



specialized treatment. That does not preclude the fact that existing hospitals could each have a wing that specializes in mental illness. It does not mean that anybody who has mental ailment will be sent to Oji River for treatment. It is only for chronic and most difficult cases that patients have to go to this specialized hospital for specialists' attention.

**Chief Ogbulafor:** I accept that explanation. That is quite right. Otherwise, I would like Government to extend the mental hospital at Calabar.

*Ministry of Works.*—We do not know what may happen tomorrow in view of the present state of things in the country. We have two bases in Eastern Nigeria and that is Idok and Itam. The pontoon at Arochuku is appalling; that of Atimbo is also appalling. Should there be any eventuality, how can we help our people to cross? We do not expect war, but we must guard ourselves. I am asking the Minister to have reserved pontoons ready for emergencies at those two places. For the past two months, lorries have not been crossing at Arochuku. If the Government cannot undertake this business, let them give it out to private agencies. Elder Dempster can do the work.

I am sure the Minister will not forget that we from Bende Division, especially from Umuahia, have stressed that we require a stadium.

*The Ministry of Education.*—It is good that we should contribute our views in a reasonable way whenever we come to this House. Anybody who does well, we should tell him that he has done well and not to criticize unnecessarily. This Ministry and the Minister have done their work very well, particularly in the way they introduced six-year course of primary education and standardized the secondary school fees. Therefore, I am expressing my gratitude to the Minister. I hope the Roman Catholic will support his view and plan as far as education in this Region is concerned. Therefore, the hon. Minister should not be upset by criticisms from some quarters.

I remember last year here we were all crying to the Government that we never liked the dress of our President. But today, we recall that when the two Houses met here a couple

of days ago the Governor and the President entered into the House with every dignity. The Government have heard our cry and I am expressing my gratitude to them—but it remains one to match the uniform. I hope by next session, the Government will again consider the President.

On the Ministry of Works, I have two or three points to raise. The hon. Minister has not done anything that anyone can say ill about him. I wish him not to be embarrassed. The tarring of all major roads in the Region is being properly handled. I am appealing to the hon. Minister that we should have a road leading to the Holy Ghost College where Bishop Nwedo is living. I am appealing that this is something which should be considered. I think our own son should be honoured by tarring the road along the Holy Ghost College to Olokoro. That is a special appeal.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—It is unfortunate the Minister is not here. This Ministry will see with me that if the Federal Government is just established to jeopardise our Region, we will not have it. Out of £5,000,000 allowed in Japanese goods, not even one quarter of a million was given to this Region.

Winding up, Mr President, Government have got a law that foreign firms should not retail trade but right now they are retailing Akwete cloth in some of the shops. Government should put a stop to that because Akwete is an important product of this Region.

**Chief A. K. C. Nosike (Owerri Division):** I rise in support of the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor on His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech delivered to both Houses of the Legislature on the 10th of March, 1964. The Speech was a good summary of Government's past activities and future plans. We are happy to have in this Region a person like His Excellency.

On the other hand, we are proud of Dr M. I. Okpara, the Premier of this Region, who is the able piloter of our Eastern ship of State. So, to him and to his Cabinet members, I owe a world of gratitude.

Before I go further, I want to say a few things according to certain remarks made by a Chief



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here about the creation of more states in Nigeria. I feel personally that it is an unrivalled lunacy for anybody from the South to think of more states while the vast area in the North has not yet been divided. The recent publication of the 1963 census credited about 29.7 million to the North. No state there is being created. Why should we of the South think of more states. It is our wish that more states should be created but we should wait for the North to show an example.

I will now make my observations on certain Ministries.

*The Ministry of Works.*—I am very happy that this Ministry has made Owerri a Provincial Headquarters with a Provincial Engineer posted there about three months ago. It has actually given that town the status that it deserves and this was done during the short space of time. I should also, on the floor of this House, congratulate the Provincial Engineer for the much he has done within this short space of time.

It is necessary to tar the roads that are commercially important. For example, in Owerri, you can think of the road from Afor Enyogugu market to Imuhu-Ngwoma-Olakwo-Umuekwune-Igrita-Port Harcourt road. It is of vital importance that it should be tarred. Every road from Enyogugu down to Obiangwu Umuohiagu Nnorie and Ofekem is also very important. The people of Mbaise and that section of Ngor Okpala want their roads to be tarred. The roads are commercially important.

*Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—I feel that the members of the Customary Courts are doing much but receiving less. Their salaries are very meagre. Everything should be done to increase their salaries. A man who has been used to spending much money to receive only £6 a month; I feel it is very meagre and almost insulting.

*Ministry of Education.*—The extension of free Primary Education to Elementary III is very gratifying, and the reduction of Assumed Local Contribution factor to 30 is most salutary. But as the teaching of science in the schools has been introduced it is necessary that the Government should buy certain equipment and distribute to schools. Science teaching needs some kind of practical demon-

stration, and if these equipment are not available any thing we do is practically nonsense. The type of children we have nowadays need practical demonstrations. Once a child sees something done practically he assimilates. Some people have expressed their views on that Ministry.

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** Point of explanation. May I inform the hon. Chief that in any Elementary School that the teaching of Science is introduced there are apparatus supplied in the form of kits. Nobody can teach Science without these apparatus. In any Primary School that the teaching of Science is introduced this equipment is provided at the same time.

**Chief Nosike:** It is a pity that in my own area there is no school yet with such equipment.

**The President:** The hon. Minister has noted it.

**Chief Nosike:** *Ministry of Finance.*—I feel that Ministry should cater for the safety and the interest of those who go on tax drives. More should be done to safeguard their interests. Several times we hear over the radio or read from the newspapers that certain tax collectors have been beaten up here and there. It is very appalling actually. On the other hand, it will be helpful to add that more measures should be taken to help in the collection of tax and safeguard the lives of the collectors. More measures, too, should be devised to collect the taxes that are outstanding.

There is a certain grade of workers in that Ministry known as "Temporary Clerks". They are the people who go on tax drives. I am appealing to the Minister to see that their appointments are confirmed.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—We thank the Minister immensely for the establishment of various industries. I know that some places are more favoured than others, but I have to suggest that in a case of so many millions of pounds coming from outside countries light industries should be mounted in different localities. The people should also be called upon to contribute in the way of buying shares. This will enable these industries to run very well because the people have their investments to protect.



Finally, I would like to speak on the census question which has caused a nation-wide uproar during the past few weeks. The recent population census figures released, the circumstances surrounding the count, the way and manner in which the census figures were released are bound to evoke the comments of all Nigerians who have the interest of this nation at heart. The preliminary figures showed that the North has 29.7 million now as against 19.1 million in 1952; the East 12.3 million as against 8 million in 1952; the West 10.2 million as against 7 million when the Mid-West had not been created; the Mid-West 2.5 million and Lagos 0.6 million as against 350,000 in 1952. Actually, these figures as released are inflated, very incredible and "worse than useless". This is very bad and we are in support of any measures taken against their acceptance.

**Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.** (Owerri Province): Mr President, I have not spoken this morning and I wish you will allow me enough time to air my views. I rise to express my sincere good wishes to the Government of Eastern Nigeria for the excellent services it has been rendering to this Region. The Speech by His Excellency the Governor demonstrate the whole work that has been done and we give our thanks to our able Premier and his Ministers.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—I am happy that the catering rest house about which I have spoken for long is now under construction and also that the shoe factory is about to be completed in Owerri. I hope that this is only the beginning and not the end. We expect more heavy industries to absorb our manpower.

*Ministry of Works.*—I am very grateful to the Minister of Works for having given us an able Provincial Engineer and an Executive Engineer. They and their staff are doing excellent work to maintain all the roads within the Province. But I wish to call the attention of the Minister to the bad caterpillar which is being used. This caterpillar is very disappointing and is delaying the work of the contractor. I am therefore to ask the Minister to see that a new caterpillar is provided to hasten the work on the roads.

*Ministry of Education.*—The Minister of Education deserves hearty congratulations.

He should not mind the comments of the various local papers. No denomination is able to remove him from the Government. I am happy that the Advanced Teachers Training College, Owerri, is progressing very well.

I hope the proposed Technical School will not be forgotten. I congratulate the Minister for the standardised secondary school fees which he published recently.

*Ministry of Town Planning.*—May I call the attention of the Minister of Town Planning to give both moral and financial support to the Owerri Town Planning Authority to carry out their development scheme which they now have in hand. Without money, the development scheme cannot be executed.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—In fact, this Ministry is very essential. I give hearty congratulations to the Premier and the Minister for the good work the Ministry has been doing. It was thought some time in the ex-British Government that cocoa, coffee and rubber were not suitable for our soil. Only palm oil was favoured. The Ministry of Agriculture has proved that cocoa, coffee and rubber can grow well in Eastern Nigeria. It is interesting to note that since revolutionising our agriculture there has been abundance of food in the Region—but no money!

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—I know that many Chiefs have spoken on Chieftaincy. It is said that a Chief is born not made; a King is born not made and a Queen is born not made but now Chieftaincy is turned up and down. You do not know who is a recognized Chief and who is not. Everybody is crowning himself. It is said that nobody crowns himself but people are now crowning themselves.

So I am asking that Government should take strict measure to differentiate recognized Chiefs from non-recognized ones for it appears everyone in the Region now wants to become a Chief. When we were struggling for the chieftaincy institution in this Region, some people said that there were no Chiefs in the Region. But now even those same people want to be Chiefs and they go by the title "chief" even though they have not been recognized as such. This practice is most prominent among our business men. During



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the colonial days, the Chiefs were recognized and honoured, although some of them have now lost their positions, although there was no House of Chiefs as exists now. With the establishment of chieftaincy institution under the Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, Chiefs are appointed and recognized by Government; but some people are blind to this fact and go about branding themselves as Chiefs.

*President of the House of Chiefs.*—I thank the Government for heeding the request of this House that our President should be given a uniform befitting his position as the President of the Eastern House of Chiefs. Now he is gaily decorated but there remains one thing. I do not want our President to be placed on a charge of being improperly dressed, having put on a cap different from his uniform, which goes to suggest that the decoration is still incomplete. I therefore ask that the President be also given a cap that matches his golden uniform.

I must also point out that there are many Chiefs amongst us here who are fit to be Ministers. I therefore ask that more Chiefs be appointed Ministers.

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Works (Chief J. H. E. Nwuke):** Point of information: four of the Ministers here are Chiefs.

**Chief Njemanze:** Furthermore, I am asking that our President should be considered and appointed a Chief, for it does not look nice if under the native law and custom the President is under a Second-class Chief in his area. But if he is appointed a Chief he will retain his dignity both as the President of this House and a recognized Chief of his area.

Before concluding, I think something must be said about Mrs Adanma Okpara, wife of the Eastern Premier. Before his abdication, Lord George expressed in the House of Commons that Queen is the ornament of the Crown. Now, Mrs Adanma Okpara is the ornament of this Government. So the excellent work she did during the campaign in the Mid-West should be recognized. I think she was responsible for the victory in that election. She should therefore be commended for her excellent work.

*Ministry of Finance.*—I must express our gratitude to the Minister of Finance for the efficient way and manner he has managed the finances of this Region. We are very thankful for his report which shows that the finances of this Region are very buoyant. But I would remind him of the effect the austerity measure has on the salaries of the Members of this House. At present, part of our salaries is being excised. I would ask him to reconsider the position now that the financial position of the Regional Government has returned to normal.

*Ministry of Health.*—I have to say that the Medical Officers stationed at the Owerri General Hospital have been doing very good work, but they are short of drugs. Owerri is a very large town and every morning many out-patients go to the hospital for treatment, but most of them return to their homes without receiving treatment because there are no drugs with which to treat them. I am therefore asking the Minister of Health to see that sufficient drugs are sent to the Owerri General Hospital in order to enable the teeming population of the place to be properly treated.

*Census.*—I am assuring the Government that the whole people of Owerri are behind them, whether for death or life, on the question of the controversial census figures. We are ready for any eventuality whether by force or peace; we are ready to march along with the Government. We are not prepared to yield to the threat of being ruled for ever by the Northern people. I remember, sometime ago, a European told me at Owerri that within fifty years the Hausas would drive us to the sea and we would then likely become Mohammedans. I do not think anybody here likes to become a Mohammedan after our Lord had come and died for our salvation. So, I ask our hon. Premier to struggle hard and be confident that he has the support of the masses of this Region, and that if it comes to the use of force, we are equal to the task. I do not know whether our Constitution allows it, otherwise I would suggest secession on this account if every other thing fails.

So I am assuring our Government that the whole Region backs them and will stand by them in any eventuality.



**Chief S. N. Okore** (Bende Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks so ably moved the other day for His Excellency's Gracious Speech to both Houses on the 10th of March, 1964, and in doing so I have a few observations to make. In the first place I want to register my sincere thanks to our hon. Premier who has ably chosen his Cabinet. He made very wise choice of diligent Ministers who are doing their best and it appears that the hon. Premier had foresight to appoint individual persons to their respective Ministries. They have contributed to the successful running of the Government of Eastern Nigeria.

On the Ministry of Education, I dissociate myself from the criticisms levelled on the hon. Minister which actually carry nothing. Hon. Members will agree that this Ministry is really capable and has been able to lay a foundation for our primary school. I trust that, with the co-operation of the other Cabinet members, this Ministry will do more. I have to join the other hon. Members who have advised that the Minister should not be embarrassed and should not be shaken by those unwarranted criticisms.

He should, however, welcome any constructive criticisms. I beg to suggest that in some cases where a community shows signs of unity and ability to run a secondary school, the hon. Minister should not hesitate to grant that community such a request. Alongside is the system of grants to schools. I should like the hon. Minister to look into the system of grants to schools nowadays which is very bad in that in some schools, for instance in the Voluntary Agency schools, the system delays the payment of salaries to teachers till after a whole month; and sometimes the grant is not forthcoming; and if teachers meet the Managers for their salaries the Managers would say that grants have not come, while civil servants receive their salaries on the 25th or 26th of every month. I think all classes of workers should receive their salaries at the same time.

Another point is the question of school leavers. I trust that the hon. Minister is taking a very serious look into the problem facing school leavers who have nothing to do at all. I would also request the hon. Minister to extend science teaching to my area. I trust that in this particular request he will take a serious view and look into the matter.

**Ministry of Works.**—This is a very important Ministry. I thank the hon. Minister for the able way he has handled his job. I thank the Government for being able to provide a tarred road now from Umuahia to Arochuku. This is very gratifying, but I would also request the hon. Minister to look into the other road (Itam—Arochuku—Calabar road) which is very important too. An hon. Member mentioned the pontoon which is giving a headache to the people of that area and the Region as a whole. The sooner the pontoon is repaired the better for the people.

**Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.**—I associate myself with other hon. Members in saying that the hon. Minister is doing well, but I would like to request him to have some sort of identification for traditionally recognized Chiefs. It is high time Government looked into the situation. When we look round here and see our First-class Chiefs with their staffs of office, we feel we would also admire it if the Second-class Chiefs were given staffs of office.

We pray that the hon. Minister should look into the matter and give this class of Chiefs more power to deal with land disputes in their areas of authority. I remember a few instances where the High Court and other courts failed to settle land disputes, but, through the co-operation of traditional Chiefs in the areas, amicable settlements were reached. With due deference I mention the Eze of Aro here who co-operated with me and we have really gone very far to settle nearly all the land disputes in our area.

**Ministry of Health.**—It is a pity that the hon. Minister is not here.

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Works (Chief J. H. E. Nwuke):** We will convey your message to him.

**Chief Okore:** Thank you very much. This Ministry is really the Ministry of the people in that it deals with the life of every individual. Now that the Region has developed to a high standard, it is high time all the hospitals were well staffed and sufficiently equipped with drugs. Hon. Members have observed that some hospitals they lack many drugs and in particular they lack staff. I have reference to make to our General Hospital at Arochuku. About five members of the staff



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have been transferred and there have been no replacements. This is very bad because when you imagine the work done by these five members of the staff now being performed by the few who are left, you will agree the burden is heavy. And sometimes when somebody is transferred to that hospital he objects. The hospital is not bad except that the hon. Minister will not grant the request of the people.

In winding up I would request the hon. Minister to augment the staff of the Arochuku General Hospital; I also request him to grant hon. Members free treatment in Government Hospitals because they will help to eradicate illness.

I have just a few points to make about the census.

**The President:** I am sorry, it is time.

**Chief S. A. Essien** (Annang Province): I rise to thank His Excellency for his Most Gracious Speech. In doing so I have to congratulate the Eastern Nigeria Government and all the Ministries for the co-operation they have given to His Excellency in his interesting Speech.

I have also to congratulate our dynamic Premier and his Government for their stand on the census controversy, and to assure the Premier that the people of Annang Province are solidly behind his Government.

*The Ministry of Works.*—I regret to note that no mention has been made of the two important roads leading from Ikwek in Abak Division through Utu Etim Ekpo and Abala market joining Aba in Ngwa land and the one from Abak through Ibagwa joining Aba—Opobo road at Ekparakwa. These roads are very important in that all the produce buying agents use them in transporting their palm produce from Abak road to the Bulk Oil Plants at Port Harcourt and Opobo.

I would like to draw the Minister of Works' attention to newspaper reports about walls of school buildings collapsing against pupils at school. To avoid these unfortunate incidents I suggest that the Minister should arrange to send his engineers and other officers from his

Ministry to inspect all such old buildings in our institutions, including churches. He may call upon other officers of his Ministry from the Provinces to assist in this matter.

*The Ministry of Local Government.*—I have to call upon the Minister of Local Government to see that instruments establishing village councils are issued and distributed through various County Councils in this Region to all the villages in this Region. It should be noted that these village councils are the mothers of Local Councils, County Councils, Urban County Councils, Provincial Assemblies, Regional Legislatures and the Federal Parliament. They should therefore be accorded full recognition and their duties should be clearly defined.

*Ministry of Education.*—The people of Abak Division are anxiously waiting to receive a very good report of the recent inspection of the proposed site for a Government Trade School. Our people throughout the whole Division have agreed that the present Abak Government School should be converted into this project.

*Ministry of Finance.*—As regards the method of collecting tax proposed by the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech, may I suggest that the Minister should see that the Internal Revenue Division of his Ministry ensures that tax demand notices and Schedule I tax tickets are issued and distributed in April; for it is between the months of April and June—produce buying season—that the people of Annang Province can readily pay their tax.

**Chief E. A. Egbara** (Obubra Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for His Most Gracious Speech.

*Census.*—On the census, I align myself with what Chief the hon. Ihenacho said yesterday that we of this House give our support to the Government of this Region for the stand they have taken and leave the rest for them to do, because they know how best to handle the matter. We may say things that will worsen the matter.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—I have to thank the Minister of Agriculture for what he has done to bring about the crop subsidy scheme and the



establishment of the Fund for Agricultural and Industrial Development. It is really in this way that farmers of this Region will be helped and I am assuring the Government that already many people are beginning to take the initiative in growing more palm, more cocoa and other crops of economic value. It is understood that maize production for animal food in Obubra Division got the highest yield and I am to suggest whether the Government will not consider the possibility of enlarging the scheme in this Division.

*Ministry of Works.*—The Ministry of Works has done a lot along the Enugu–Abakaliki road, but I will have to ask the Minister to check the staff who are working on the road. It takes nearly six months to put up a culvert and it is a waste on the part of the Government. If they are properly supervised I think it will save the Government a lot of money.

The tarring of the Abakaliki–Ufekpe road is now overdue. I remember when the Minister visited the Obubra County Council he promised that the road will be tarred. In fact we saw the road being widened and we thought it was time for the tarring to begin, but up till now nothing has been done. Now that he will be touring Obubra I think he will see it himself and see that this road is tarred in good time.

I think if the Ministry of Works will readjust its road programme and make sure that unnecessary corners are avoided, it will be of much help. Most of our roads have several dangerous corners. It is true that we want to save money for Government but we must realize that life is more precious than money and that it is better we lose money than to lose life.

The water scheme for Obubra and Ugep has not properly started. For two years we have been told that something would be done but up till now we have been expecting to see what Government is doing about the proposal and I wonder whether it is not about time for the scheme to be started.

I thank the Minister of Health for what he has done for Obubra. But our hospital lack enough staff and for the past few months we have been finding it difficult to run the hospital. In most cases when the Medical Officer travels

out of Obubra we have nobody to run the hospital and the next hospital which is at Abakaliki is far and cannot be reached without crossing a river. Whenever the Medical Officer is leaving Obubra, arrangements should be made for a substitute.

We asked for an I.D.H. and a laboratory but I do not know whether the Minister has planned for these to be built. To whoever is concerned to convey this message, I would appeal through this House that the Obubra Police is quartered in the oldest medical centre and there is no building so old as that in the whole Region. Not only that, the Police Barracks look awkward to everybody who sees them. Something should be done about this soon since the police there are doing their best to maintain order. They also lack adequate number of staff. We want more Police Constables to be posted to Obubra Station.

I am sorry to remind the Minister of Health that the disease of T.B. is a menace to our society and arrangements should be made to check it. Patients should be discharged after they have been thoroughly cured and not when they are half-cured. People who are working in hospital know very well that T.B. spreads easily.

**The Minister of Health:** May I reply to the hon. Chief that we do not discharge patients unless they have been properly cured. But the fact is that when some patients feel a little better they bolt away on their own and not on the advice of hospital authorities.

**Chief Egbara:** *Ministry of Town Planning.*—Last year I pointed out that Obubra, one of the oldest Divisions, is overdue to have town planning authority, and I am asking whether the Government does not think it proper time now to start planning for Obubra.

*Ministry of Finance.*—I notice that while it is good for us to tighten up measures of collecting taxes and rates, it is also good to sound a note of warning that we should ask the officers to use tact. Most of them are rude in approaching the public and that is why some of them clash rather frequently with the natives. It will not be good of us if we fail to take note of the rudeness of collectors and see that something is done to check them.



**Chief O. O. Uzor** (Afikpo Division): I wish to associate myself with the views of other hon. Members and to say that we of Eastern Nigeria have proved that we can manage the affairs of this Region efficiently. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Education for the able way that he has handled the affairs of his Ministry. In fact, the Minister is an ideal Minister and a man of ability. He deserves the honour due him; he has been noted to be a man of changes for good. But when we have any difficulties in any Ministry this Minister has always been appointed to that Ministry so that those difficulties can be solved to make the Ministry worth its salt. For example, when he was the Minister of Finance he was able to handle the affairs of the Ministry and made so many changes which were at the time being criticized by many people but now we in this Region have realized and have reaped the fruits of financial buoyancy of our Region. He has also modernized the standard of Education in this Region and I think the system as it now stands is good.

I would like to thank the Minister of Agriculture for the able way in which he has handled the affairs of that Ministry. But there is only one thing rampant with that Ministry, and that is the question of nepotism. In fact, this is the view always expressed in Abakaliki Provincial Assembly because we are always treated in a very unpleasant manner in appointments in any agricultural establishment in our Province. We shall not boast that we have all the equipment and educated men to offer but the question is that where there is a senior man posted from either Owerri Province, Onitsha Province or elsewhere in the Region and placed in charge of any agricultural projects in Abakaliki, he takes that opportunity to import labour which is readily available in Abakaliki from his own Province, without due consideration or preference to the right of the people in this Province. This is very regrettable and it does not make for unity at all. I think this should be looked into and stopped.

*Ministry of Works.*—The work of this Ministry is very commendable because almost all the roads in Afikpo are being tarred. But the one major road which we have been crying for is that of Oso-Owutu-Nguzu-Bende boundary. It is a Divisional road and it

is a Provincial road. It links Afikpo with Bende and every person using that road will equally agree with me that it is the shortest road to Aba and Port Harcourt without taking Okigwi road, so that if this road is tarred it will be of much use to the Region. The work on the Governor's road is very deplorable. It is good that the Minister should award contracts to efficient contractors. I am not a contractor and I do not know what materials are used in constructing a bridge but as we see them, the bridges under construction do not represent good workmanship; they are too narrow. When the Minister goes there he will see for himself and be able to do something better. The bridges are only about two inches wider than what they were.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—I thank the Minister of Local Government for extending the life of certain Local Government Councils and I think it is very good privilege to those Councils. It is good for a person who is able to manage the affairs of his office to be given longer tenure of office so that he may employ his sense of duty to promote the management of the Council while he is in office. Under the present chairmanship of Councillor Ude, the Edda County Council, out of a total of its estimated revenue shows an uncollected balance on 31st March of under £400. As the life of the Council has been extended it will enable the Council to fulfil all other obligations resting upon it.

May I express the views of my Division as far as the census is concerned and to say that we of Afikpo are prepared for any thing and thoroughly support the stand taken by the Government of Eastern Nigeria. We are behind the Government and its able leader, Dr M. I. Okpara, our Premier. Let him not relax; we have every human power to face the Northern people; we know how to handle Hausa affairs if the worst comes to the worst.

**Chief Zumoh Efeke V** (Yenagoa Province): I have to thank His Excellency for his Gracious Speech from the Throne. His Excellency spoke with conviction that he has confidence in his able Ministers. We are rest assured that the ship of state is in the hands of able Ministers.

Before I go further, I have to say something about the census. The people of Yenagoa



Province support the stand of our Premier on the census issue. The people of Yenagoa reject the figures entirely as they were inflated by the people of Northern Nigeria, and the people of Yenagoa Province are prepared for any eventuality.

The figures were not only fantastically inflated but there is a plan and organized conspiracy against the Government of Eastern Nigeria. In the 1952 and 1962 head counts, the East exceeded the West and Mid-West put together but in the new census the West and Mid-West got more people than the East. Again, the Northern figures were so highly inflated that they now have over 13 million more than their census figures in 1962. Therefore the people of Yenagoa are supporting the Premier in his stand for the entire rejection of the census figures. My people are advising the Premier to boycott the Premiers' Conference if the census issue is not fully discussed in that conference and in accordance with the statement by the Prime Minister that his decision on the matter is final. I would like Government to dismiss forthwith the two representatives of the East on the Census Board who signed those figures knowing very well that they were worse than useless. But for the signatures of those people who represented the East, the Prime Minister could not have announced the figures without consulting the Premiers as originally agreed. My people are prepared to give financial, moral and man-power support to the Premier of Eastern Nigeria to fight the census issue.

I want to refer to one hon. Member, a Second-class Chief, who recently indirectly attacked me. He said that a First-class Chief was demanding the creation of more states in this Region. I have to warn the Second-class Chief. There are two Cabinet Ministers who are also demanding the creation of more states in this Region. Why did he not warn the Ministers? I have to say it categorically in this House that I am not anti-Government. I went to Lagos, Ibadan, Nsukka and other places with a delegation of fifteen people just to get the opinions of the people whether they are in support of the creation of the new state. It is the policy of the Government of Eastern Nigeria to simultaneously create states in the East, West and the North. I am sure that when the time

comes the Government will announce the creation of new states.

*Ministry of Works.*—I have to thank the Minister because his Department has done a very good work. I would like however to remind him of the 21-mile Mbiama-Yenagoa road which has taken five years to complete. I am very happy that the Premier and his Ministers are travelling by that road, and I am sure they will condemn the contractors who did the work. I do not see the purpose of giving work to a contractor who cannot do good work.

**The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka):** Point of explanation. It is not correct to say that the work has taken five years. I signed the contract two years ago and it is therefore wrong to say that the road has taken five years to complete.

**Chief Efeke:** So you cannot complete a 21-mile road in two years? I am glad that the Premier and his Ministers will be travelling to Yenagoa by that road. I am sure that my cry will now be heard.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—I have been saying something about the need for the establishment of gin industry in my area. I have sent the Minister of Commerce samples of gin and he has analysed them. If the industry is established it will give employment to thousands of our boys and girls who run to the townships every year as soon as they pass their Standard VI examination to look for employment.

*Ministry of Health.*—I have told the Minister of Health several times that Yenagoa Province has only one doctor and at times this doctor travels to Brass and Port Harcourt to give evidence in court and stays out for about ten days. During his absence, there is no other doctor to take care of the sick people. The hon. Premier is a Doctor of Medicine and he knows what will be the position of a hospital when the doctor is away for ten days. We want two doctors, so that when one is away the other will cover the work. So many people are now dying in my Province because of an epidemic of measles. About twenty of my children are now suffering from that disease and the other day I was running here and there for help. When I enquired of the doctor, I



[CHIEF EFEKE]

was told he was on tour. I appeal to the Government to do something about it immediately.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—It was proposed to open fifteen Farm Settlements in this Region and now we have about seven. I want one of these farm settlements in my area. You may think that we have no land. I say without fear of contradiction that we have the most fertile land in the whole of Nigeria. I am saying this because I am a trained Agricultural Assistant. Cocoa takes only four years to flourish in my area whereas it takes up to ten years in the West. If land is needed, I will give about 100 acres of my land free of charge. I do not want people to take things for granted and say that we have no land and that we have only water. We of the Ijaw tribe have the best soil in Nigeria. Now that he is going there, I want the Minister to see things for himself. It is only a pity that he is not going to extend his tour to all the corners where he will see the most fertile land in the world. If necessary I will give him my personal speed-boat in order that he may be able to visit several places in my area and see things for himself. I have a rest house also and the Minister can use it free of charge.

*Ministry of Information.*—I congratulate the General Manager of the Eastern Nigeria Information Services Corporation who is also in charge of the *Nigerian Outlook*. He has done a very good work. During the last campaign tour to elect Members into the Mid-West House of Assembly, this gentleman, M.C.K. was able to campaign vigorously and he enabled the people to see what the Government is doing.

**Chief S. A. Ike** (Okigwi Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's Speech and in doing so, I have the pleasure of thanking the Government of this Region, headed by our dynamic Premier and National President of the N.C.N.C., Dr M. I. Okpara, for the achievements the Government had made during the last financial year.

My thanks also go to the Government for the immediate steps taken in rejecting the inflated 1963 census figures. My clan, Ugiri

and the entire people of Okigwi Division have mandated me to inform this hon. House that they are prepared to sink in or swim over with the Government the census controversy.

*Ministry of Works.*—I have to bring to the notice of this House and the Government of the Region, that my clan Ugiri, with a population of over 50,000, have been adopting the Government policy of helping those that help themselves. Within a period of fifteen months, the entire community unanimously resolved to carry on their water projects, of which a total of £3,800 has been collected and deposited with the African Continental Bank Limited, Umuahia branch. I have every hope that by the middle of this month, another reasonable amount will be deposited. Every effort has been made by the people to hear from the Ministry of Works what actually is their own share towards the project but no reply has yet been received. I know the Minister is a hard-working man.

While still pressing for the water scheme for my people, I should like the Minister to consider the need to commence the tarring of Umuduru-Ugiri and Amara-Amadugba-Orlu roads, which were approved for tarring for over four years now. The importance of these roads is that the roads connect many educational and medical institutions in Mbano, Orlu and Owerri Divisions as well as the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation oil mills and two Grammar Schools.

*Ministry of Health.*—This is one of the Ministries that received the greatest confidence of the people of Okigwi Division during the last Financial Year. Through the persistent efforts of the Medical Officer, Dr O. B. Mbakwem, the Minister without wasting time, provided funds for the renovation of Okigwi General Hospital which was last renovated in 1940. The doctors at Okigwi General Hospital and Mbano Joint Hospital, with the co-operation of their staff, played the most important part in the restoration of good health to the sick who seek treatment in their hospitals. The relationship between the medical department and the public has been very cordial.

While still expressing thanks to the Minister, I should like him to remember his promise of



1962 when he visited Okigwi General Hospital to provide funds for the building of nurses quarters, extension of hospital, building of Health Office for sanitary inspectors, the Infectious Diseases Hospital and the fencing of Okigwi General Hospital with barbed wires.

*Mbano Joint Hospital.*—The Minister and the Government felt the need for providing a hospital to serve the entire people of Mbano and parts of Orlu and Owerri Divisions, and in 1962, the Premier of this Region and National President of the N.C.N.C., Dr M. I. Okpara, accompanied by a team of his Ministers, performed the official opening of that hospital, which was later followed by the visit of His Excellency Sir Francis Ibiyam.

Since then the hospital has been making great improvements, though it lacks adequate funds to expand more. May I take this opportunity to appeal to the Minister to make funds available for the transfer of the hospital theatre. The present operation theatre is very near the main road and the noises being made by cars, lorries and passers-by, often disturb the patients while in the theatre.

*Ministry of Education.*—The recent events in the field of primary education in the Region which have led to the modification in the Region's primary education policy have actually proved that the Minister is working hard for the training of our children.

Thousands of teachers protested that the monthly payment of grants was not to their best interest and the Minister listened immediately and approved the payment quarterly.

While praising the Minister for what he has done, I should request him to make more efforts to assist the poor parents for the training of their children.

*Ministry of Justice.*—I am appealing that funds be made available for erection of a permanent building for the Magistrate at Okigwi.

**Chief W. Obi** (Ahoada Division): I rise to thank His Excellency for his Most Gracious Speech in which he outlined the past and future activities of Government. In doing so, I have to support the hon. Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara, for rejecting the inflated 1963 census figures.

I, on behalf of my people, say we are behind the hon. Premier.

I take this opportunity to say something in connection with roads. I am calling the attention of the Minister of Works to certain roads in my Division. This is a long standing request which has not been considered. The Omokwu-Oguta road which has been marked out for reconstruction three years ago is still difficult to pass. Thus, this road is cutting off communication from the neighbouring towns. This is an important road, and should be given prompt attention otherwise we would be cut off from all amenities. Secondly, there is one bridge at Elelalime. This bridge is very delicate and narrow. The Minister of Works saw the bridge sometime ago, but as a man, he managed to pass it. We are appealing to the Minister to help us in the reconstruction of this bridge.

*The Ministry of Local Government.*—I feel I should congratulate the hon. Minister for merging all the County Councils that were not viable. My Council—Ogba Egbema—is one. It would not have been viable if the Minister were not good enough to send a certain Secretary who worked very hard for that Council and made the Council viable. On behalf of my people, I say that we do not want to merge ourselves with Ekpenye Engenni in so far as we have been able to get money to run our Council.

*The Ministry of Agriculture.*—This Ministry is a very important Ministry for economic crops. I have to thank the Minister for having probed so many rural areas and established some estates in those areas. But the Minister has forgotten one set of people, the cocoa farmers. They are not remembered in the Marketing Board. This, I believe, has made them fall behind and they do not put as much efforts in their farming as they should. Formerly, cocoa was one of the leading economic crops in world market. I do not know why this crop is not recognized again. I am a cocoa farmer myself and I have to say that it was the encouragement of this Ministry in this respect that made me to change from rubber and other economic crops to cocoa.

*Sitting suspended at 12 noon.*

*Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.*



**The President:** Hon. Members, this is a Budget Session, and as such, justice should be done on this occasion. I will call on Members to speak, and I will limit their time to five minutes.

**Chief W. Obi:** I would say here that cocoa farmers are not favoured. May I repeat that cocoa is one of the chief economic crops that the Government has introduced into Eastern Nigeria. After seeing how the people in the Western Nigeria were flourishing in it this crop was introduced.

As far back as 1956, I started planting cocoa. We appeal to the Minister of Agriculture to send us instruments to enable us do the farming satisfactorily. He should try his very best to encourage us. I see no reason why this crop should not be considered by the Marketing Board. I am sorry that the Minister of Agriculture is not here.

**The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. N. Okeke):** I am here.

**Chief Obi:** Thank you. The Minister should try to see that the price of cocoa is raised by the Marketing Board. Many of them have tasted cocoa and found it to be good food.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—This is a very good Ministry. The Minister is doing his best to see that we are recognized. There is one thing I want to say, and that is that we, the people in the rural areas, are being worried by self-made chiefs. The Government has a policy that whosoever calls himself a chief will be punished by law. I am praying that the law be enforced for the safety of the true Chiefs.

*Ministry of Finance.*—I am speaking in connection with our consolidated allowance which the Government has been so good to give us. This allowance is small, and for that reason we would like Government to give us entertainment allowance to enable us entertain our friends who may visit us in our rural areas from other parts of the country and overseas. After the appointment of Ministers from both Houses, we the Chiefs, are the people to maintain and look after the divisions and provinces, and it is obvious that we must receive strangers. It is necessary, therefore,

that entertainment allowance should be given to the Chiefs in order to enable them hold their office with dignity.

**Chief D. O. John Oduah (Special Member):** I rise to support His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne. As usual, in his brilliant way, His Excellency has covered all the Government's activities during the past year and vividly x-rayed what it intends to do in the ensuing year.

While thanking His Excellency for this marvelous work, if I will not be offending Church Dignitaries, I would like to describe our Governor as an image of Christ. Our Premier's dynamism increases with his years in office, and I say congratulations for all his achievements. I wish him many more years of noble achievements.

**The President:** Order! Order! May I please call the attention of this House to the fact that a Premier or a Prime Minister can never be a youngman. His activities and services have raised him above age.

**Chief Oduah:** The same thing applies to his wife. She is very marvellous in campaigns; she is a very powerful speaker and convincer of people. I also praise all the Ministers of this Region. They work hard, are unassuming, very approachable and take criticisms always in good spirits. So I congratulate them for their good qualities. I also give my congratulations to the Provincial Commissioners. These hon. men are managing the Provinces very satisfactorily.

Turning to the Eastern Nigeria Civil Service I commend the genius of the Chief Secretary to the Premier. In the past we thought that it was the colour of the skin that did the work but now we have known that it is the brain and not the skin. Let the Government listen sympathetically and at all times apply the golden rule when workers agitate. After all, it is the workers who are the lives of the people. If these men are not satisfied the progress of the Region will be thwarted.

**The President:** Two minutes more, please.

**Chief Oduah:** The Minister of Works should reconsider his stand with regard to Ogbaru Road. If the Minister has no staff to do reconnaissance road survey of Ogbaru, my



firm of engineers can do it for one tenth of the cost. Give us the money and we will do everything ourselves. I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to co-operate with the Minister of Works and give the necessary funds.

The able Minister of Commerce should please come to our help and develop our lakes and natural ponds. In Ogbaru you do not need to dig pond or buy fish to rear in it. I repeat that fishes in Ogbaru waters are sufficient for fish canning industry.

**The President:** Wind up, please.

**Chief Oduah:** I turn to the census question. All hon. Members will agree with me that we cannot win the battle by talking. Government should do something constitutionally and pursue a constitutional fight. Giving a thousand pounds or £500 to Government will not solve the problem. So let the Government take a constitutional action.

**Chief G. N. Agbasiere (Orlu Division):** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech on the 10th March, 1964. Before I go item by item into what I have to say, I will first of all comment on the last census of Nigeria. The census figures which were released are unbelievable. I wish to give my congratulations to the Premier of this Region and tell him that all the Chiefs, all our people, men, women and children, are behind him. Let him fight the case to its logical conclusion. The census figures are an abomination. The North alone is said to be over twenty-nine million; the East, the West, the Mid-West and Lagos put together are said to be just over twenty-five million. In other words the North is greater than all the other Regions put together by over four million. There is something inside it. Are they counting animals?

**Several hon. Chiefs:** They counted cows, goats and sheep.

**Chief Agbasiere:** I pray God Almighty to protect and guide the Premier and the Ministers to fight and see that the issue is well concluded. I pray that the Prime Minister also should think and do something otherwise there will be trouble.

*Ministry of Education.*—I am a member of Catholic Church, but I condemn entirely the

action of some members of my denomination in writing to the Minister of Education to resign his office on a flimsy reason. The petitioner inferred that he was speaking for the Catholics. Who are those Catholics? I am the President of Owerri Catholic Council, and also the President of the Catholic Council, Eastern Nigeria. Who is that fellow then who can issue such instruction without my knowledge? How can he write to the Minister to resign without the knowledge of the person or organization on whose behalf he says he is speaking? I beg that the Minister of Education should not take the writer seriously. He is speaking his own opinion, and not the opinion of the Catholic Council. If there is any matter we want the Minister to solve for us, the proper thing is to go to the Minister and iron it out with him without any fuss. We have done such before and the Minister received us very well and heeded our request. Even myself, I have a secondary school. One day, after the school had been opened, I went to the Minister for a certain matter in connection with the school, and he treated the matter to my satisfaction. The Minister is falsely being accused of discrimination against the Catholics. I say with emphasis that there is no discrimination at all practiced by the Minister against the Catholics. I assure the Minister that a great majority of the Catholics of this Region are behind him and support him. He should not be afraid whatever.

Another point is about our President. I thank the Government for heeding our request about the President of this House. So many Members have already spoken about it. But it remains one thing which I am sure, every Chief here knows, and that is the cap of the President. The cap is not fitting to the dignity of the President. The President is the Head of this House and he should have everything that a President should have. Even in community or family affairs or social gatherings, when a man is made a president of such society, he is given all the rights and privileges associated with the office, and so, the President of the Eastern House of Chiefs should be given all the rights and privileges befitting his position so that his presence in this House would reflect complete dignity.

I thank the Premier and his Ministers for establishing the House of Chiefs, but something



[CHIEF AGBASIERS]

remains about it. Chiefs must be respected. Even when the world began there were Chiefs. When something happens there must be a Chief to head the occasion. And that is why Chiefs should be respected. And who will give this command, and who will make Chiefs to be respected? It is the Government.

I have spoken so many times in the past that this House needs expansion. We want more Chiefs to come in. In the Federal Senate we have only four. So we want more First-class Chiefs to be appointed to the House. One Member asked that more Chiefs be made Ministers of State. That Member was speaking sense. It does not matter whether there are four or more. If ten or more of us are made Ministers it is not bad.

I also thank the Premier and his Ministers for the progress made in the Region since the past two years. I regret that due to time limit I am unable to speak more.

**Chief J. U. Okudare** (Ogoja Province): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Speech. The Speech was wonderful as regards provision of amenities to those who deserve them. I noticed, however, that the people of Obudu were omitted in the distribution of amenities. During the reading of the Speech I listened carefully but did not hear anything about Obudu. There is nothing said about roads in that Division. Even the Cattle Ranch at Obudu was not thought of in the Speech. I am sure that if the ranch were to be in any part of Ibo land it could have been improved greatly.

**Chief C. E. Amobi:** Point of Order. Standing Order No. 30 (7):

"No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member."

**Chief Okudare:** I therefore appeal to the Government to consider this road which leads to the Cattle Ranch. I would also ask that the road from Ogoja to Obudu should be tarred.

Again, I thank the Government for establishing a Catering Rest House at Ogoja and for providing piped water there. Since last year the proposal to bring pipe-borne water to the area has been going on. So I want the Government to take up the question of water supply and see that it is accomplished this year.

With regard to the census, many other Members have been giving assurance of their people's support of the Premier on this matter, and it appears Ogoja Province has been silent over the issue. I must assure the Premier and the Government of the Region that the people of Ogoja Province are behind them on this matter. I should suggest that the President of the Federal Republic should invite all the Governments of the Republic to a conference so that the differences could be ironed out. At this conference it could be determined whether the North should be divided into more states or what type of representation they and other Regions should have in the Centre. But we should not divide Nigeria into different countries on account of the census issue.

I also thank the President of the Federal Republic for releasing some of our brothers who had been in gaol. I saw some of them returning home with pride and jubilation.

At Obudu we have about fifteen square miles of land suitable for agricultural development. We therefore appeal that the Government should take up this area and develop it.

**Chief N. U. Ofem, M.B.E.** (Abakaliki Province): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Speech delivered to both Houses of this Legislature on Tuesday, 10th March, 1964. The Speech has given a comprehensive review of Government's activities within the past twelve months and what the Government intends to do in various fields within the next financial year.

In supporting the Motion, I have a few humble observations to make. I have to register my thanks to the Government for listening to our request and dignifying the President. It was a disgraceful show to the hon. Members of the House of Chiefs when on the 10th of March, 1964, His Excellency, Sir Francis Ibiham opened the Fourth Session of the Second Eastern House of Chiefs and the Fourth Session of the Fifth Eastern House of Assembly and our President was without his robe. All the dignitaries who escorted His Excellency into the Chamber of this hon. House for the official opening appeared in their official uniforms, but the President of the Eastern House of Chiefs (the Upper Legislative House of the Region) appeared in his private dress. I believe that



all the Chiefs were ashamed on that day. We now say, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts for granting our request. I have also another observation. All other Legislative Houses of Chiefs in the Federation of Nigeria have recognized the office of Chief Whip in their Houses of Chiefs. We would like our democratic Government to harken to our request and appoint a Chief Whip in our own House of Chiefs.

Observation number three is on the national population census. At the Abakaliki Provincial Assembly which sat on 4th March, 1964, I sponsored a motion. With your permission, Sir, may I read the motion:

“That this Provincial Assembly support the stand of the Eastern Nigeria Government in rejecting the preliminary figures of the 1963 Nigeria Population Census.”

This was supported by the Assembly. On the floor of this hon. House, I wish to repeat that all the people of Abakaliki Province support the stand of Eastern Nigeria Government in rejecting the preliminary figures of the 1963 population census. It is a most glaring political dishonesty. The preliminary figures for Northern Nigeria in the 1962 census were 21 million. How the figures have increased to 29 million in only one year beats any good reasonable man's imagination.

*Rural Development Committees.*—These committees are highly welcome throughout Obubra Division. In order that these committees may perform their work successfully, Government should allocate some funds to each Rural Development Committee in the Region. The greatest difficulty facing the majority of the people in the rural areas is funds to develop our virgin lands.

*Demonstrations against policies of Ministries.*—The recent demonstration by certain women in the Region against the education policy of the Ministry of Education is out of order. In my humble opinion all new policies in all our Ministries are first discussed in the Regional Executive Council where all Ministers have a say before these policies are implemented. To demonstrate against any new policy and against any Minister who happens to hold that portfolio is due to mis-education on the part of the evil thinkers. After all said

and done, a Minister of the Government has full and final responsibility for every matter within his portfolio. I am urging the Government to enact a legislation banning demonstrations against Ministers.

**The President:** Order! Order! Hon. Chiefs, your interest and honour are at stake. They are in very serious position now. Will you, therefore, do your very best to turn up at 9 a.m. tomorrow in the Committee Room to hold a Parliamentary meeting of your own so as to discuss matters in your interest in order to arrest the situation.

**Chief C. O. Nebe (Awka Division):** I rise to associate myself with the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Most Gracious Speech. In doing this, I have to express my satisfaction with the most able and comprehensive way this Government has been carrying on the affairs of the Region, with particular reference to agriculture and industries. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Premier and his able Ministers for the most efficient way in which the Region is being run. We ought to be proud when we remember that barely fourteen years ago this House budgeted about £2 million as against £37 million in 1964. It should be remembered also that during the past before the Eastern Legislature was born—about fourteen years ago—there were no farm settlements, no industries. These things are now found all over the Region. We should be proud about these. We should not be surprised therefore, when we see a less progressive Region being jealous of the progress of this Region. It is natural. Even with two brothers of the same parents, one is always the object of ridicule about the progress of the other. So we should not very much worry ourselves about what is happening to us in the Eastern Region now. We know we are more progressive than the other Regions in this Federation and we are proud of it. Just one word to the less progressive Regions. An old adage says: “If at first you don't succeed try, try, try again.” I think that will be better for them rather than resorting to deadlock as a means of annihilating a progressive brother.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—If you look back to 1961 you will see that at least the cost of living in this Region is now considerable and everybody is trying to be a farmer either by cultivation or by poultry keeping. I congratulate the



[CHIEF NEBE]

Minister of Agriculture for the efforts he has put in, but I have to remark on one thing, and that is in respect of poultry. I can see that poultry rations are being distributed on Provincial basis. I think it will be better and easier if the Ministry considers distributing these rations on Divisional basis, and eventually on County basis. This will enable people who are farmers and need rations get them easily.

I now come to soil erosion. Erosion in Aguata County area is a thing that I want Government to look into carefully. The finances of this Council are being drained and they cannot succeed in the fight without Government assistance. I therefore appeal to the Government to come to our rescue in fighting this dreadful erosion.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—Government is doing their best in settling chieftaincy disputes, and once these disputes have been properly settled it will be good if consideration is given by the Minister to the creation of a Council of Chiefs where the Chiefs will be in a position to say in a nutshell what their position is with reference to Regional and Federal affairs.

**The President:** Wind up, please.

**Chief Nebe:** May I close by saying that the people of Awka Division have unflinching support for the Eastern Nigeria Government on its stand on the census issue.

**Chief G. A. Oluje** (Aba Division): In rising to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Speech, I make the following observations: The Speech itself is a survey of the past, present and future progress of Eastern Nigeria. I believe that if and when these ideals are transformed into action, Eastern Nigeria will be advanced into full emancipation in all phases of development like other developed countries in the world.

*Census.*—One of the matters that strike me most is the census. The people of the East are very much agrieved about the last census figures and it is disappointing to the intelligent world. The attitude of the Northern Premier and his Government does not preach the unity of the country. They have forgotten to realize

that if there is trouble, it is an ill wind that blows nobody good. If there is trouble it will affect every section of the country and I am quite sure Eastern Nigeria will not be the worst sufferers. In fact the East is viable. But where the Hausas refuse to be reasonable, I think something should be done. Now, what pains me most is the treatment by the Hausas to the Ibos in the North. They have actually lost site of the fact that there are many Hausas in the East who remain here and do their business without being molested. We should take a resolute action. The Northern Premier denied making a categorical statement that he did not advise the expulsion of Ibos from the North. The fact is that it affects the entire unity of the country. Without fear or favour it is clear that we have contributed more to unite this country than any other Region of this Federation. Therefore, I, as one of the Members representing the *Eyimba* city in Aba Division, assure the Government that we are solidly behind the Government and if there is any trouble at all, I am quite sure that our people will give unflinching support to our indefatigable Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—It is gratifying to note that Akwete cloths, Ikot Ekpene rafia works, Awka carving and rough iron crafts are among our local handicrafts which have won international recognition. There is room for improvement and it should be advisable for Government to subsidize these local handicrafts and small industries as is the case in other countries of the world. They will go a long way in helping to solve the problem of unemployment and staying the young ones leaving schools at home who would otherwise rush to the towns in search of opportunities.

The stocking of the products of these handicrafts by alien firms should be discouraged. Some of these products are sold by alien firms like the U.A.C. and others. In future the tendency will be mass-production of these things by the alien companies and our crafts will lose their original value. For instance, the "Kente" cloth of Ghana has lost its original value because of mass production of the article by alien firms.

The Minister of Education has my commendation: the primary school period is compressed from seven to six years with new syllabus; Elementary III is fee-free and the



Assumed Local Contribution factor has been reduced from thirty-six to thirty, bringing about a big relief to the people.

**Chief Ako Akwoli II** (Enugu Province): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Speech. In doing so I have some observations to make.

In the first place I have to say that my people support the Premier and his Government for rejecting the census figures.

I have to congratulate the Minister of Local Government on the way he handled the Councils and the extension of the lives of these Councils, and for giving loans to County Councils for the development of their markets. But I am appealing to the Minister to see that more loan is given to the Igbo-Etiti County Council to develop the Eke Nibo market.

I have to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture for the work he has done by siting a farm settlement at Uzo Uwani, but I appeal to the Minister to see that loans are given to petty farmers to help them develop their farms. Without food there is no life. The people in the rural areas do not know the way to obtain loans from the Government.

I have to thank the Minister of Works for the construction of the Iyiakolo Bridge on the road leading to the Uzo-Uwani Farm Settlement. I should also like the road from Nsukka to Ogrugru to the Farm Settlement to be tarred and the road from the ninth mile leading to Eke and Nkporogwu to be tarred. That road is very important because that area supplies most of the food-stuffs to other parts of this Region.

I have to thank the able Minister of Health for the way he handles medical amenities. But I wish to point out that Nsukka which is thickly populated has no Government hospital and the Minister should see that one is built for her people. A teaching hospital should also be built at Nsukka University so that when the students learn they can see things for themselves.

**Chief Edet Edem** (Calabar Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech. In doing this I wish to say three things. Firstly, I congratulate the hon.

Premier and our hon. Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs for recognizing the hon. Chief Edem Ekpenyong Ephraim Adam as the Obong of Calabar. Secondly, I congratulate the Minister of Local Government for extending the lives of some Councils. Lastly, may I appeal to the Minister of Works to improve the roads in Calabar rural and urban areas.

Last year, I said something in respect of these roads. There is no maintenance and during the rainy season it is difficult to go about as the roads are very intolerable. In the rural areas, the western road leading from Creek Town to other parts lacks maintenance and I would also appeal that the Minister approves that it be tarred. It used to be said that the reason for not extending amenities to us was that we were against Government. But now that we wholly support Government, what should prevent Government from coming to help us? Now we have a new Obong... (*An hon. Member: Can't your Obong do the work?*) I am the representative of my own section and we know that united we stand but divided we fall.

Next, may I appeal to the Minister of Commerce to extend his industrial activities to Calabar. I have heard that a cement industry is to be sited at Calabar but I want Calabar people to be considered for employment when the industry starts so that they may have something to eat. Many of our people are roaming about without jobs.

To the Minister of Health, I would request that the mental hospital in my area be expanded to accommodate more of the lunatics—male and female—on the road.

**Chief J. O. Onyejekwe** (The Obi of Onitsha): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Speech. As it is well known, we are really lucky to have His Excellency, Sir Francis Ibiam, as the Governor of this Region. He is a man of many qualities. In the church, he is internationally known; he is a medical practitioner; he is an educationist; he is an experienced legislator and now administrator. His Speech has given a vivid explanation of the activities of the Government within the past financial year and also the programme of what Government proposes to do during the current financial year. The Speech underlined certain subjects to which the Government attaches much impor-



[CHIEF ONYEJEKWE]

tance for the welfare of the people, particularly of the people of the rural areas. To mention a few the Government attaches much importance to agricultural and industrial developments and has planned the establishment of agricultural colleges, trade schools and so forth, in the Region to promote the industrialization of this Region. The Speech shows that the Government has taken bold steps to revolutionize education in Eastern Nigeria. For example, science is being taught in primary schools and teacher training colleges.

The efforts of the Government in various directions are quite commendable. They have the welfare of the people at heart and I congratulate the Government for proposing to establish a 500-bed Mental Hospital at Oji. This Hospital, when completed, I am sure, will fulfil a long-felt need; throughout the Eastern Nigeria we have only one Mental Hospital and that is the one situated at Calabar. There is one lunatic asylum at Port Harcourt but these do not serve many people; the proposed Hospital will save so many urban towns from being infested by lunatics. Only recently at Onitsha the Urban County Council passed a Bye-law to be able to control lunatics who roam the streets of the urban areas. So we can do with more Mental Hospitals in Eastern Nigeria. When that of Oji is completed we can still have one or two more.

Now there are two things which disturb the minds of the people at the moment with regard to Education. Much is being done but the first of these complaints is the compression of the Primary School period from seven to six years. The second complaint is the ever increasing rise in the fees paid by students in Secondary Schools. I see that Government states that it is arranging to control school fees in Secondary Schools but how effective that control will be is yet to be seen. We have been told that it will cost a maximum of not more than £56 to keep a child in Secondary School but I do not think that Government has taken into consideration certain extraneous charges made on students for such things as school building, Library Fund and so on. By the time all these are considered you will find that it comes to about £80 to keep a child in Secondary School. I would ask the Minister also to consider the agitation of people against

the reduction of Primary School period from seven to six years. The fear of the people is that it may not be possible, within that short period, to teach a child all that he should know before going to a Secondary School.

Now about the census. My people and I support the Premier of this Region for the stand which he has taken over the census issue. After reading the Premier's Press Statement of the 28th February, 1964, one cannot fail to be convinced of the justness in rejecting the figures. All the same, I would like it to be understood that the census issue is a delicate one. It is a problem which threatens the unity of this new Republic. But at the same time, I consider it a problem which is equally a good test of Nigerian statesmanship. I am confident that there is an honest, honourable and equitable solution to the problem, if only our politicians and statesmen will put on their thinking caps and approach the matter with a clear conscience and spirit of oneness and belonging. The solution will not be hard to see unless we do not want to see it. In any case, I would advise that there should be no more comments for or against other Regions on this issue. It is better to leave the matter to our elder statesmen who, I am sure, have already started thinking of the ways of solving the problem.

**Chief A. A. Ekwebelem** (Okigwi Division): In supporting the Motion of Thanks for the able and well worded Speech of His Excellency the Governor of Eastern Nigeria I would first of all thank the Almighty God for giving this Region a worthy leader in the person of Sir Francis Akanu Ibiam.

I have carefully gone through his Speech and noted, with great interest, the Eastern Government's achievements in the fields of Agriculture, Industry, Education, Republican State, the new building of the Eastern Legislature and the economic programme of the entire Region.

With the gigantic programme laid down in every field, I always feel satisfied when I view the future prosperity of the whole Region as planned. The plans embrace the rich and the poor, the weak and the strong, civil servants, farmers, traders, industrialists, missionaries and many more I cannot now mention for the sake of time.



The pursuit of Nigerianization in the Civil Service of this Region is most interesting and encouraging, considering the economy it effects. The competitive examinations for the future recruitment of our civil servants is welcome.

Turning now to the University of Nigeria, our future hopes lie with that institution. It is the only University in the Region and it must be supported at all times financially and otherwise.

Referring to the Ministry of Commerce, I am very proud of the progress made in that Ministry and the future developments planned by the able Minister of Commerce, Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna. He is a very intelligent and hard-working young man. I would also thank all the Eastern Cabinet Ministers who are contributing to the future wealth and prosperity of this Region. May God help them all!

I am satisfied with the plans set up by the Ministry of Education and I would not like to associate myself with some of the people who sit back to criticize our experts who have taken pains to plan our education. If we had allowed such criticisms to stand at the time our Federal President, Dr Azikiwe, was planning for the University of Nigeria, the University would not now be in existence. In fact, I have to thank our Governor, the Premier and all members of the Cabinet of Eastern Nigeria for the past achievements and future plans.

I have the pleasure in requesting Eastern Nigeria to note that the three counties in Okigwi Division want to be considered in the rural water scheme. Several times, I have requested for an additional medical officer in the General Hospital, Okigwi, because the people are suffering a lot; one doctor is not enough for that hospital, but no heed has been paid up till now. Also Okigwi station has been promised electricity and up till now nothing has been done about it. I thank the Government for the pipe-borne water which has been started at Okigwi. But unfortunately the work is now at a standstill. I am saying that our people will think that they are forgotten and may feel that Government has not shown appreciation for their support all the time.

**Chief M. I. Asinobi** (Special Member): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Governor's Speech. In the Speech, Port Harcourt Hospital was mentioned. We want a bigger hospital at Port Harcourt. Port Harcourt should have a hospital that befits it. We want also more doctors.

We thank the Minister of Works for what he has been doing. We have got large number of commercial and grammar schools and the number of people is well over one and a half million but the unfortunate thing is that there is not enough water for them. Where there is no water there is no life. So, we are appealing to the Minister to do something about this.

**Chief E. E. Okpa** (Awgu Division): Thank you for allowing me—the only voice from Awgu Division—to speak, and being the only voice, I feel Mr President will give me extra minutes.

I have to remind our civil servants, the custodians of this Region, of the little proverb which says that the father brings home the honey and the mother keeps the honey. If our Government is to run efficiently we must respect and allow the good sense of the senior civil servants to have weight on all matters concerning the Region. When the policy is made, we must allow the civil servants to implement it without influencing them in one way or the other by the inordinately ambitious politicians.

I am referring, with the permission of the House, to the Auditor's report, 1962-63, page 4, item 15:

"In 1961 with the agreement of the Ministry of Finance, Reference Sheets were introduced in order to bring to the notice of Permanent Secretaries and Heads of non-Ministerial Departments matters which were under consideration for inclusion in this Report. These notifications are issued under my signature and it was expected that replies would be signed by the Permanent Secretaries or Heads of the non-Ministerial Departments, thus indicating that they had been made aware of matters on which they might have to give evidence to the Joint Public Accounts Committee. The majority of the replies received to Reference Sheets in 1962-63 have not been signed by Permanent



[CHIEF OKPA]

Secretaries or Heads of non-Ministerial Departments.”

I am only trying to draw the attention of this House to the fact that very many letters from the Ministries are signed not by those who are supposed to sign them. This is the very thing that is trying to plunge the whole nation into a calamity by allowing the present census figure to be signed by someone without reference to the Head of Government of this Region. I am asking that the practice should be stopped. If the person who signed the census figures had referred to the Head of this Government he would not have been authorized to sign it. The hon. Premier would not have allowed him to sign on behalf of the Government. It is very unfortunate to have brought Chiefs of this Region into conflict with people of no originality. I am challenging the people of that Region to pose their Emirs to compare with the Chiefs of Eastern Nigeria. Their Chiefs could only out-shine us in kola-nut chewing and breaking record in tea drinking like the Emir of Gwandu in those days. This Region has got people whose characters are worth emulating in every aspect of life. We are progressive and no Region should attempt to deprive us of our fundamental human rights entrenched in the Constitution, otherwise let it be that there is no Constitution!

Again, I am not going back without encouraging the able Ministers of this Region by telling them that if the Hausas take the issue of the census as a matter with the Ibos I think able men of the Ibo Union will prove themselves equal to the task. If we are challenged either by the Fulanis or the Hausas or any tribe in the North we should accept the challenge. If it becomes a matter of Region to Region, our able Premier is equal to the task. I would request every reasonable citizen of this Region to refrain from making unnecessary statements.

**The President:** Wind up, please.

**Chief Okpa:** I ask for an extension of time if the House would permit, as I want to say one thing more before closing, and that is about the Ministry of Education. Many parents do not enjoy the award of scholarships . . .

**Chief J. A. Onwudiwe (Onitsha Division):** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His

Excellency's Most Gracious Speech. In doing so, I am grateful to God for giving us a man in the person of His Excellency, Sir Francis Ibiam. I wish just to say a word about our Premier in dealing with the census of 1963. I have to say that although we are a free Nigeria, we have freedom of movement, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, there is restraint virtually imposed on the use of these freedoms, lest we help to set ablaze the census fire. The issue is a delicate one. It requires careful handling and skilful approach. Our able Premier and his lieutenants will fight out our cause triumphantly. Let us keep our powder dry.

**The President:** A minute more, please.

**Chief Onwudiwe:** Mr President, I now come to the Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.

**The President:** Wind up!

**Chief Onwudiwe:** I wonder!

**Chief R. Ojimba Oraelosi (Onitsha Division):** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech. I have to praise the activities of the Premier and his Ministries and hope that before the end of the Six-Year Development Plan the achievements will be concluded.

I should like to comment on certain Ministries which are doing well.

There is no need praising a person who knows his work; we know that these Ministers were chosen by our able Premier and he knew that they would do their jobs well. There is no need to praise them individually.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—I have to inform the Minister of Agriculture that we are eager to see work started on the proposed Veterinary Clinic as envisaged in the Official Document No. 27, 1963. By this document we must get more agricultural projects in the rural areas.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—I thank the Minister of Commerce for siting textile industries at Onitsha, and we look forward to seeing when that factory will start production. As Onitsha is the gateway of the East, we need more major industries sited there.



**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I rise to thank all hon. Chiefs who have expressed some concern about the incessant brick-bats I have had since the last meeting of the House of Assembly on religious grounds.

I have been called names—accused of Religious bigotry and even of being arrogant. Of course, those who know me well know that I am not arrogant. It is difficult for me to be, even if I should try. On the Religious side, I may not belong fanatically to any denomination but I endeavour as much as I can to follow the teachings of Christ.

My only concern about the issue of a common syllabus—which appears to be the main bone of contention now—is to engender unity and conserve our funds. I spoke at length on this issue on the floor of the Eastern House of Assembly.

I would like to repeat the same question I asked the Members of the Lower House on the 18th of March, 1964, if there is anybody in this House who can deny that religious rivalries over the establishment of schools have paralyzed and sometimes completely killed local initiative and co-operation in other fields of community development. It has undermined a sense of unity and fostered suspicion and ill-feeling. Is this the type of thing we must encourage in the name of religion? (*Several hon. Chiefs: No.*) Several hon. Members of the Lower House answered No; and I believe that hon. Chiefs here will agree with them.

All my Ministry and I are saying is that if it were possible for all the Religious bodies to agree on a common syllabus the present situation where (in the absence of particular schools in an area) children are made to by-pass schools of different denominations and travel long distances to attend a school of a particular denomination cannot be said to be conducive to a spirit of national unity.

A common religious syllabus, if it were possible to agree on one, would lead to the maximum use of available school space without regard to who established or is running the school. In this way Government funds would be used to the best economical advantage.

Mr President, with your permission, I wish to take this opportunity to clear the allegation

that has been made in some quarters that I deliberately refused to read the reply of my letter to Archbishop Heerey which was written on the 9th of March, 1964, by Bishop Okoye. I wish to state categorically here and on my honour that I did not see this letter until the 19th of March after delivering my speech on the 18th of March. In any case this letter has now been published in the *Catholic Leader* and those who have read it will agree with me that it contains nothing that should make me feel embarrassed about reading it. The gist of it is that the Roman Catholic Bishops are opposed to even the consideration of a common syllabus. With your permission Mr President, I will now read it:—

“c/o The Rt. Rev. Godfrey Okoye, c.s.sp.,  
Bishop of Port Harcourt,  
Catholic Mission, Box 16,  
Port Harcourt.  
9th March, 1964.

Dr S. E. Imoke,  
The Hon. Minister of Education,  
Ministry of Education,  
Enugu.

Dear hon. Minister,

We have to refer to the letter of the 13th February, 1964 (Ref. IN(P) 3803/115) which you addressed to the Chairman of the Council of Catholic Bishops, His Grace Dr Charles Heerey, c.s.sp., the Archbishop of Onitsha, and to acknowledge the receipt of the same on his behalf.

We note that you wrote ‘at length and fairly strongly’. We appreciate the forthright manner in which you wrote and we agree that the issue at stake is so important that to write with frankness and candour is the best approach. We propose to be equally frank with you.

We note that you regretted the ‘outright and uncompromising rejection’ by the Catholic Bishops of the proposed common religious syllabus. We assure you that no disrespect was meant. Our attitude stems from the fact that our objection to the proposed common syllabus is fundamental.

We start by referring you to the general provisions relating to education contained in



[DR IMOKE]

Part IV of the Education Law of Eastern Nigeria. We wish to refer you also to the circular letter No. IN(P): 5114/S.1/18 of the 22nd September, 1962, issued by your Ministry as a statement of Government Policy on religious education in County Schools. For ease of reference we attach a copy for your benefit.

In that circular letter three important points were made. Firstly, the point was emphasized that it has never been the wish of Government to drive religion out of County Schools. Secondly, the point was stressed that children should not be compelled to receive denominational religious instruction against the wish of their parents. Thirdly, the circular letter clearly recognized the right of parents to decide what denominational religious instruction their children should receive. This fundamental freedom of conscience and religion does not depend on the Education Law of Eastern Nigeria only but is entrenched and hallowed in our Constitution. It is also re-echoed in Article V of the Resolution passed at the 19th Session of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations which provides that the 'parents or legal guardians have the right to decide upon the religion or belief in which a child shall be brought up'. The UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education provides as follows:—

'It is essential to respect the liberty of parents and, where applicable of legal guardians, firstly to choose for their children institutions other than those maintained by the public authorities but conforming to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by competent authorities and secondly to ensure in a manner consistent with the procedures followed in the State for the application of its legislation, the religious and moral education of the children in conformity with their own convictions; and no person or group of persons should be compelled to receive religious instruction inconsistent with his or their convictions'.

With us leaders of the Church, it is also an inalienable moral right. In fine, it is a legal, constitutional and moral right.

It is then a matter of deep regret that you should now embark on a policy which strikes at the very root of this fundamental right and which is bound to cause resentment and agitation. Let us consider your reasons for this fundamental change of policy.

Paragraph 3 of your letter reads as follows:—

'Without in any way trying to be impertinent, we cannot help expressing a surprise that Christian Leaders should want to perpetuate divisions even at this time when everybody is happy about the ardent moves towards Church unity...'

Again the last paragraph of the first page of your letter reads:

'A number of considerations governed our decision to draw up a common syllabus for our primary schools. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to obtain the co-operation of Church Leaders for the purpose of drawing up something acceptable to all. But since this was not possible, the Ministry took upon itself to draw up what it considered an objective syllabus aimed at giving a child in the elementary school proper grounding in the Christian Faith. In doing this, a lot of research was undertaken and advice sought from knowledgeable quarters both in this country and overseas...'

Again at page 2, paragraph 3 you said:

'Again, there is the need to bring up our children in an atmosphere which will make them feel that they are one. The present situation where, (in the absence of particular schools in an area) children are made to bypass schools of different denominations and travel long distances to attend a school of a particular denomination cannot be said to be conducive to this type of development nor can we in conscience accept an arrangement where these young children would be subjected to the ordeal of being separated everyday in the same school for the purpose of religious instruction.'

'We have quoted your letter at length to show that we have given this letter the consideration to which it is entitled. You are saying, that because of the ardent moves towards Church unity, because the Church leaders have failed to draw up a religious



syllabus 'acceptable to all', because of the need to bring up our children in an atmosphere of oneness and because your conscience cannot brook an arrangement which subjects 'young children to the ordeal of being separated every day in the same school for the purpose of religious instruction' you have decided to impose a common religious syllabus in the primary schools. You must permit us to observe that you have completely ignored the legal, constitutional and moral right of parents, and have invested yourself with the right to make the final decision on the faith and morals to be taught in primary schools. You now propose not only to set the standards of education in primary schools but also to settle the contents of and to determine the tenets of faith to be taught in those schools. This is a claim which cannot be conceded. Your contentions when applied to other fields would produce alarming results. We shudder to think what would be the position if your line of reasoning were to be applied to the politics of Nigeria !

"We are praying for and striving towards Christian unity. This fact of course cannot justify the imposition of a common religious syllabus by you. It is agreed on all sides that the existing differences in matters of faith and morals between the denominations are too great to be overcome by the simple expedient of introducing a common religious syllabus. It will be an over-simplification underserving of any serious consideration to attempt to achieve Christian unity by reducing Christian belief to its barest minimum if such is ever possible. Christian faith is not susceptible to such mathematical calculations. It is the totality of Church teachings and doctrines about God and man's spiritual destiny that constitutes a person's faith.

"Furthermore, the teaching of Christian faith is bound to be influenced by the idiom of and the orientation to the particular denomination to which the teacher belongs. Lastly, the fact that the Church leaders cannot agree on a common Religious syllabus should have served to expose the over-simplification by you of the problem. We are sure you will readily concede that when suitable and favourable atmosphere for Christian unity has been created by an antecedent co-operation between Christians

of all Churches in social and charitable activities, in economic and political matters, in common movement towards world peace, in common movement to protect the sanctity of human life and freedom of conscience, it is the theologians from the various Churches who should meet to discuss differences in faith and morals and to see how they can be resolved.

"The need to bring up our children in the right spirit of unity and co-operation does not need any emphasis. That need should not however lend itself to the creation of a false situation. It is creating a false situation to pretend to children that there are no differences in the tenets of the Christian faith as propounded by the various Churches. What is more important, of course, is the need to bring up children to respect the differing views held by others and to maintain their disagreements with others without bitterness and without creating an attitude of hostility.

"You regard an arrangement whereby young children are separated everyday in the same school for the purpose of religious instruction as an ordeal for the children. You are substituting your choice and wishes for those of parents. It is a stand which you cannot rightly take. It is a stand which is against the provisions of the Education Law itself. You may have convinced yourself that your proposal to introduce a common Religious Syllabus for primary schools is 'in the best interest of proper and planned educational development in this Region', but the fact remains that you are dealing with freedom of conscience and of religion. It is a matter for individual choice and for children's parents' choice. To us Catholics, religious instruction that does not teach Catholic dogma, Catholic prayers, proper preparation for the Sacraments is no real religious instruction. Other Churches have their own views. They are entitled, in the language of our Constitution, 'to manifest and propagate their views in worship, teaching, practice and observance in public or in private' wherever the teaching of religious instruction is provided for.

"Finally, you ignore the fact that one cannot teach, for instance, of God the Creator, God the Father, and the life and teachings



[DR IMOKE]

of Jesus Christ except in the language and idiom of his particular denomination. Religious instruction can only be of any avail if taught by persons with the same orientation as the people to be taught.

We have written at length as you did because there is need for you to consider also our point of view and let reason prevail in this matter of religious education. But we have not written 'strongly' because we have always maintained that there is need for peace, unity and good relations, especially at this critical moment of our country's development.

We propose to send copies of this letter to the Anglican Archbishop and the Secretary of the Christian Council as you did, and also to the Premier.

Your very sincerely,

J. C. Anyogu, Bishop of Enugu, D. I. Ekandem, Bishop of Ikot Ekpene, A. G. Nwedo, Bishop of Umuahia and G. N. Okoye, Bishop of Port Harcourt."

There is a lot of course to debate in this letter, but I do not intend to go into that. All I want to say in addition to this is that unfortunately the envelope which contained this letter was not kept to enable me verify when it arrived Enugu but the only evidence I have now is the filing date in my office which reads 19-3-64. It is here. Mr President would like to have a look at it to show that I did not deliberately refuse to read this letter when I delivered my speech. The date is stamped here 19-3-64.

Let me reiterate that whatever the final outcome on this issue of a common syllabus may be, my concern and devotion have been that of the future unity of this country through the guided up-bringing of our children and of contributing to the most effective and economical development of our resources for the future stability and progress of this Region. History will decide who is right—I, who take this line, or those at present blinded by religious fanaticism.

What my Ministry and I have suggested is not new. Other countries have taken similar measures for identical reasons. The United Kingdom under whose tutelage we had been

for more than half a century is an outstanding example. As a matter of fact the draft syllabus my Ministry presented to the Board of Education was lifted from there.

In that country any denomination who is opposed to the use of the common, or agreed syllabus as it is called there, is free to open and run at its own expense private or denominational schools.

I wish to refer to only one other point which figured prominently in the speeches of hon. Chiefs since the House opened two days ago. That is the census issue. I should like to state on behalf of the Government Bench that we are very much heartened by the unqualified support which all hon. Chiefs who have had the opportunity to speak so far have given to the stand we take. We assure them that there is no turning back. We will not budge because we believe that our cause is right and just.

Finally, I wish to say that all other points made in the way of criticisms or requests will be looked into by the Government who will endeavour in its normal way to satisfy the hon. Chiefs who have made them.

*Question put and agreed to, nemine dissente.*

Resolved: That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature.

**The Address to be presented by Members of the Eastern Nigeria Executive Council.**

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till 10 a.m. tomorrow.

**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole):** I beg to second.

#### ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

**The University of Nigeria, Nsukka**

**The Provincial Commissioner, Yenagoa (Mr P. G. Warmate):** I rise to draw the



attention of this most dignified and hon. House to the great disservice a statement credited to a Member of Parliament, Mr M. C. K. Obi, has done to the academic independence of Nigeria when he insinuated in Parliament two days ago that the standard of education in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, was inferior to other Universities in the country or elsewhere. I wish to stress the fact that the University of Nigeria whose concept and ideals are unique in the world, is very dear to us. Therefore any overt attempt to drag its good name in the mud must be resisted without compromise and without delay before much damage is done to its reputation. The statement of Mr Obi should be regarded as the work of a traitor and saboteur to the cause of higher education in Nigeria which seeks to restore the dignity of man in Africa and other parts of the world where the African is still regarded as a second-rate citizen, including Mr Obi himself. Mr Obi should, therefore, be made to realize what disservice his statement has done to millions of his countrymen and women who look upon the University of Nigeria as the best new hope of mankind on the Continent of Africa.

The statement should also be regarded as a challenge to the proficiency of the University's academic staff. Mr Obi has not only insulted and embarrassed them but has also inadvertently cast aspersion on the intelligence of the many distinguished Nigerians and friends of Nigeria who had been honoured by this University for their meritorious service to the country in their various fields of achievement.

It is therefore my considered view that the action of Mr Obi should not be dismissed with

levity as the effusion of an irresponsible mercenary vandal in view of the damage such an irresponsible exercise is capable of doing to the good name and reputation of this young University. The University authorities, the Inter-University Council, and the Government should look more thoroughly into Mr Obi's allegation, that is, to know the graduate who was the alleged victim of discrimination and by whom he was discriminated against simply because he is a product of the University of Nigeria; and let all our people know more about the truth without much delay and what action has been taken on the matter to prevent a recurrence of such act of advertent irresponsibility in the affairs of the University.

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** There is no doubt that hon. Obi's statement was deliberately malicious and made because of his political leanings. I am glad, however, that a fitting reply came spontaneously from the Attorney-General of the Federation who is supposed to know better, and the Federal Minister of Education. I do not believe that hon. Obi's statement deserves any further notice. I would advise Mr Obi to visit the University himself and see what is being done there, that is, if he is capable of appreciating. Further discussion on this issue, is, to my mind, not in the best interest of the University of Nigeria.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-eight minutes past two o'clock p.m.*



EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Thursday, 9th April, 1964

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYER

(Mr President *in the Chair*)

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Offer of Land

2. Chief G. A. Ikibah, M.B.E. asked the Minister of Agriculture, what are the names of the towns and villages that have offered land to the Government for Farm Settlements or other agricultural purposes; what are the terms of offer.

The Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture (Dr N. Otue): A large record of offers of land to Government for establishing Farm Settlements have been opened at Farm Settlement Office in Enugu. It is not practicable to copy out voluminous records covering several years. It is suggested that the hon. Chief visits the Farm Settlement Office and inspects the records which will be made available to him.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(i) Sittings of the House

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): I beg to move, That pursuant to Standing Order 81—Suspension of Standing Orders—paragraph (2) of Standing Order 6—Sittings of the House—be suspended to enable this House to sit this day beyond 2.30 p.m. until the completion of the business of the House, unless previously concluded.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs (Mr O. U. Affiah): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

Ordered: That pursuant to Standing Order 81—Suspension of Standing Orders—paragraph (2) of Standing Order 6—Sittings of the House—be suspended to enable this House to sit this day beyond 2.30 p.m. until the comple-

tion of the business of the House, unless previously concluded.

(ii) Adjournment Sine Die

The Minister of Education: I rise to move, That this House at its rising Today do adjourn *sine die*.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs: I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

Resolved: That this House at its rising Today do adjourn *sine die*.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Appropriation Bill, 1964-65

(ONLY ALLOTTED DAY, PURSUANT TO ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF 7TH APRIL)

*Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (7th April):*

That the Bill be now read a Second time.

*Question again proposed.*

Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill, 1964-65. Before I make my comments, I would like to crave your indulgence to quote paragraph 61 of page 25 of the Budget Speech by the hon. Minister of Finance.

The President: Order! The usual time limit of ten minutes will be observed.

Chief Amobi: Thank you. In view of this, may I start from the middle of the paragraph:

“... Where philosophies and theories fail, our people have adopted a commonsense approach; where policies change, they have responded in a practical manner. In fact, Sir, the Easterner is a realist. It is to this sense of realism that I wish to invite the attention of hon. Members, to the practical way in which we seek to solve our problems. This has served us so well in the past and will sustain us in the years to come...”

I accept this as a piece of advice to the people of Eastern Nigeria to guide them in the way they



deal with their Government, in the way they look at the finances of the Government, in the way they ask for amenities. I must say that the financial situation of Eastern Nigeria has gained world admiration, and since the efforts of our Ministers are directed towards spending our money in the best interests of the Region, there is no doubt that investors from far and wide will be attracted more and more to help industrialize the Region.

The work of the Internal Revenue Division of the Ministry of Finance, especially with reference to tax collection, is very commendable, and I hope that more powers will be given to the staff of this Division for the efficient discharge of their duties. More protection should be given to the people connected with tax collection because at times they are attacked or even injured while discharging their lawful duties. I hope the Government will heed this request, and if possible, insure their lives against accidents. If more encouragement is given to these tax officers, much more money will be collected from year to year. Our population has increased and there are therefore many more people who should pay tax; the tax officials should be encouraged to cope with their increased task.

I would like to suggest that a particular day in, say, September of each year, be set aside for intensive tax collection. Let it be called the D-day in Eastern Nigeria. Tax Demand Notices will have been served before this date and any people who wish to pay up immediately will have done so at their convenience. But on this particular D-day, rigid tax drive should be conducted throughout the Region.

If you pass through Onitsha to Enugu you will get people to check you. Everybody should be checked. If you pass from Onitsha to Port Harcourt you will meet people who will check you. That should be a special time for tax drive. I know there are many people who carry money in their pockets but fail to go and pay their tax. They find it difficult to pay their tax and would like to cheat the Government. If tax drive is conducted in the Region for two weeks nobody can evade it. After all, the census was conducted for about a week and the whole Region was counted. If this method is adopted I hope we shall collect more money.

The Motor Licensing Authority in Onitsha is making some improvement. I am talking of Onitsha because I visited the office and saw things myself. They have one energetic young man who is doing his best. Forms are given out by the man in charge and the Licensing Authority himself never leaves urgent matters in the hands of other clerks. Anyone who goes there is treated in time. The people of Eastern Nigeria including drivers and car owners are in a hurry and nobody likes to wait indefinitely before he gets his licence. If you go to the Motor Licensing Authority you will find that they are making more money than they used to make in the past. Those who, after you have paid your money, tell you to go and come back at eight o'clock or two o'clock or the next day, should be asked to give way for the people who want to work. We are in a hurry and the people of Eastern Nigeria want money to work and develop the Region.

Another thing I want to say is that some people who go to the Town Planning Authority to ask for plots are unable to pay. This is because some of them own five plots and some have ten plots. I suggest that a ruling should be made that once somebody is in arrears for two years, his plot should be given to some other person who has no plot at all.

While I am suggesting ways and means by which the Government will get more money, I have to state that the traders of Eastern Nigeria are suffering very much in the hands of highway robbers. You must have heard that a sum of about £5,000 was stolen from traders travelling to Lagos. It is a pity that after these traders have suffered for so many years one man or a group of people will mask themselves in the night, armed with guns, chase these traders and steal their money from them. If this is allowed to continue it means that there will be no progress and these people will not be able to pay their tax. You know that the progress of Eastern Nigeria today is backed by traders.

**The President:** Three more minutes!

**Chief Amobi:** Thank you, Sir. Another thing I want to say before my time comes up is the protection of workers. Although workers are all asking for higher wages but in my own opinion, as one who was a worker, I feel now that the finance of Eastern Region is really



[CHIEF AMOBI]

buoyant, it is very important that efforts should be made to build quarters for junior workers. There is no reason why after a man has trained his child and he has been able to get a job for him, he will have to look for money to pay his child's house rent for six months. Besides, he will have to provide him with other things like bed, etc. You will see therefore that the sufferings of the parents will never stop. Now that there is enough land at Enugu, Port Harcourt, Onitsha, Owerri and other places where you have civil servants, money should be provided for the building of quarters for junior servants.

*Census.*—Before I sit down, I will like to mention this question of census. I have put up a motion and that is why I deliberately left it out from my first speech. I have to assure the Premier of Eastern Nigeria and his Government that the people of Eastern Nigeria are entirely behind them in their stand as far as the rejection of the figures is concerned. I would like to say that we are really disappointed by our friends of the N.P.C.

**Chief Prince Eugene William Dappa Pepple** (The Amanyanabo of Bonny): I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill, 1964-65. I have to congratulate the Government, especially the Minister of Finance for his Budget. I will ask the President to convey the gratitude of this House to the hon. Minister of Finance, the Premier and the members of his Cabinet. It is my pleasure to see that the finances of the Government of Eastern Nigeria are buoyant and it is a credit to us. In the whole Federation of Nigeria, Eastern Nigeria is the only Government with a very buoyant surplus financially. It is a credit to us and when we say credit, we mean credit to Members of this Upper House.

I wish to say with regret that some of the Ministers have failed to tour the Rivers area. I say that because even without asking them to tour the area, this hon. House will agree with me that the people in the Rivers area are entirely cut off. It is most unfortunate that this is so, but it is the work of nature. We are entirely cut off from the rest of Eastern Nigeria in the way of communication.

**The President:** Louder please so that the reporters may hear you.

**Chief Pepple:** In Eastern Nigeria, we have roads which are maintained by the Ministry of Works but we in the Rivers area have no roads.

I wish to draw the attention of Government to the Rivers area so that something could be done to help us. We are not as expensive as those in the hinterland where they spend more money to maintain the roads; our own roads are maintained by God.

**An hon. Member:** He should be satisfied with that.

**Chief Pepple:** I am not satisfied. The Minister of Works should visit Bonny which is the only oil terminal in the whole Federation and to which many people following oil tankers delight in visiting. It is just like somebody coming to a very big country like Nigeria and stopping in a little place like Bonny, and always answer when asked, that he visited Nigeria when in fact he did not see anything of our big country. Something should be done to convince visitors that Bonny is the only oil terminal for the country. Bonny County Council is so poor—the Minister of Local Government will bear me out—and cannot maintain our roads. We have a road of about three miles . . . (*An hon. Member: But he has plenty of water.*) Do not disturb me. I am very serious. It is only salt water. What I am saying is that we want all these candidly. The funny thing is that the Ministers visit Bonny and other riverines during the rainy season when there is water. If they visit Bonny in the dry season, they will see for themselves that we have no water to drink at that time. We want water very much.

Government should not feel satisfied that we have the Niger Delta Development Board which is supposed to help us. The Board is not doing anything practically for us. This Board was set up there because unfortunately we are not abreast with other parts of the Region. We want the Government as well as the Board to help us. This does not mean that we should remain stagnant and wait for everything to be done for us. Since we have no water to drink, the Minister of Works should think about this seriously. My earnest desire is that the hon. Minister of Works should, for God's sake, visit Bonny, the only oil terminal in this country and from which Government realizes £5 million to £6 million annually.



*Ministry of Education.*—I wish to say outright that we are very grateful to the Minister of Education for his activities. If nobody else congratulates him, I will do so myself, and wholeheartedly too. The Minister has set aside the old regime of studying foreign history in our schools and brought up our own indigenous history, the history of our fathers, the history of our great people. In the East we had two very prominent people and these were Bishop Crowther and King Jaja of Opobo. I wish to call the attention of the hon. Minister that there was one connecting rod which brought King Jaja and Bishop Crowther together and that rod was King Pepple of Bonny. Students of history will bear me out that without King Pepple of Bonny the existence of King Jaja would not have been, and there would be no hint of the existence of Bishop Crowther.

King Pepple went to England in 1854 on exile due to trouble. When he reached there as a heathen he was converted to a Christian. When he won his case he returned with the compensation paid to him for taking a King away from his domain. Instead of putting up a mighty mansion which should now be serving as a relic, he returned with Christianity on which he spent all his money. This was in 1861. The Europeans thought that Bonny was a great place like England, but they did not know that it was not as developed as that. When some of them came they were bitten by mosquitoes, and most of them went back. So King Pepple had to petition to England and finally Bishop Crowther was sent. How can one forget King Pepple when the one talks of King Jaja and Bishop Crowther... (*Interruptions*) what I am saying is that in 1861 when he came back, King Pepple of Bonny, ... (*Interruptions*) there was no Opobo. There was a civil war in Bonny and in 1869 Opobo was founded.

**An hon. Member:** Point of Order.

**Chief Pepple:** I am giving history; there is no Point of Order.

**Chief Amobi:** Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (7):

“No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member.”

**Chief Pepple:** Mr President, no improper motive at all. It is history. He has taken four minutes of my time.

**The President:** That Point of Order is not upheld.

**Chief Pepple:** What I am saying is that King Jaja was a slave boy in Bonny. He came up fortunately...

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** Point of information. I want to explain to the hon. Chief that the Ministry has already taken note of the inadequacy of the History portion of the Syllabus for Primary Schools and has decided to review that part, and the point the Chief is making will be taken into consideration.

**Chief Pepple:** I drop that. May I take up another point.

**The President:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province):** In supporting the Appropriation Bill, I will first of all thank the Government of Eastern Nigeria for having accorded recognition to hon. A. G. Umoh as the Leader of the Opposition in the Eastern House of Assembly. I say this because the action of the Eastern Nigeria Government goes a long way to show that the Government is one with malice to none.

Turning to the question of the census, although others have spoken covering the whole ground and leaving no room for me, I will still make a point. I believe that Dr Okpara and his Cabinet have every right to raise alarm about the census, at least for the simple reason that the women of Eastern Nigeria were highly insulted by those who were responsible for the census figures. I hope the Prime Minister will not continue to delay to summon all the Premiers and the people concerned to a meeting in order to see that the census issue is settled once and for all. I say this because the whole world is trying to repose confidence in our leaders and the people of this country, but if the people are unable to settle this simple issue, then that confidence that was reposed in our people will stand no where.

I want to make a point on the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The effort of our President,



[CHIEF MPI]

Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, and the Government of Eastern Nigeria in establishing the University is an everlasting heritage for us who live in this part of the country. I say this because some people who are power-drunk tend to say something which will mar the reputation of that institution.

I have to thank the Government of this Region and will continue to thank the Government whenever it does something for which it is worth thanking. The appointment of Mr Aguma, Member for Port Harcourt in the Eastern House of Assembly, to take the place of hon. John Umlu, is a right choice. This shows that the Government is doing its work properly.

Another good work done by this Government is the appointment of Chief Morphy as a Whip. I think the Government has gone a long way to encourage the people of Ogoja Province by that action.

I would like to say something about tradition. Many people have spoken at length on this issue but there is still room for us to say more until we are given what we want. The crowning of Chiefs here and there is causing us a lot of embarrassment. I do not know where we are heading to—whether the whole people of this Region will be made Chiefs. If that happens who will then labour for the Chiefs?

The Government has done very well to bring more industries to Port Harcourt. We do not want others to grumble because it is nature's work. After all, Port Harcourt is the second largest port in the whole of this country. That appears to be God's decision.

Let me seize this opportunity to thank the hon. Minister of Works for what he and his Ministry have been able to do and I want them to do more. He has done very well although there is still room for improvement. We want the Minister to tar the road from Agwa to the Chest Clinic, Isoba, which is shorter for the people from other parts of Ikwerre, Ahoada Division, and Brass Division to that of Umuochita to the Chest Clinic, Isoba round-about. Also the road to Isoba through Umuochita is necessary to serve those who may go to the Chest Clinic, Isoba from Port Harcourt. The two roads are important and should be tarred to serve the people of the areas in Port Harcourt Province.

Lastly, we want to remind the hon. Ministers that it is high time they visited the rural areas. Many of us here were not born in townships but in the rural areas; they should go to the rural areas to see what is happening there in order to put things right.

**Chief A. U. Ukpa** (Eket Division): I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have a few observations to make. I would like to lay emphasis on the Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs. The appointment of Customary Court Judges and the filling of casual vacancies are meeting public confidence and this is a sign of good work and I, therefore, congratulate the Minister. The institution of chieftaincy is traditional in England notwithstanding that monarchs reign, but here in Eastern Nigeria there are certain individuals who are trying to use Government power or position to suppress the rights of others. Vacancies exist in Umuahia and Uyo Provinces due to the death of late Wachukwu and Inyang-Udo, respectively. I have a submission to make; I call on the Government of Eastern Nigeria to disregard submissions by friends, individuals, or County Councils purporting A or B to be this or that. In Uyo Province we have a number of Second-class Chiefs: ten in Uyo, twenty-two in Eket, eighteen in Enyong and eight in Opobo. I am submitting that it will be good if the Government of Eastern Nigeria will consider any of these Second-class Chiefs by merit and promote him to fill the vacancy of First-class Chief. It would not bring peace and harmony in the areas concerned if one who has no traditional right, who is looking for an illegitimate right, is appointed to fill the vacancy. I am sure it will cost Government time and money to maintain peace in the area when there is disturbance. I should refer to a maxim which says "Live and let others live". The Government of Eastern Nigeria is noted for its honesty, integrity and manliness and we hope that Government is taking up this issue which will do justice to every individual.

*Ministry of Works.*—The other day, I congratulated the Minister of Works for the tarring of Eket-Oron road and I would now submit that Ikot Ubo-Uyo road which is an important road, should be given consideration. Eket-Oniong-Opobo road and Uyo-Etinan road should also be considered. The tarring of these roads will meet public demand; although



we know that the Government cannot do these things in one day.

*Ministry of Agriculture: Catering Rest House, Eket.*—When we have august visitors, they always stay at Uyo. They have got to drive from Uyo to Oron thirty-two miles and then from Uyo to Eket twenty-eight miles. We are requesting that Eket, as a Divisional Headquarters, should be considered for a Catering Rest House.

*Ministry of Education.*—May I associate myself with the statement made by Chief Onukogu, Minister of State in the Premier's Office, that although the Government has made a ruling that more secondary schools are not going to be established for boys, consideration should be given to areas which were not fortunate in the early days of the missionaries who established secondary schools at random. There should not be a general ruling. There are areas with vast population but have not been fortunate to have secondary schools. They should be given consideration on merit for new schools.

*Daily Times.*—I join to condemn the *Daily Times* issue of 6th April, 1964, which made reference to the hon. Minister of Education and his Ministry.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Education to the Inspectorate Branch of his Ministry that some schools remain for two or three years without inspection. This arm of his Ministry should do more effective work to see that regular checks are made on schools because the tendency of some schools is to over-staff and consequently Government funds are wasted there.

**Chief G. A. Agwu** (Bende Division): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 1964-65. Before I do so, I have to say something about the census. I, with my people, support our able Premier on his stand to reject the 1963 inflated census figures.

We know that Northern Nigeria has a large area of land, but not many people. We are the people that do travel to the North. If one travels 500 miles one cannot see people living there but bush. If it comes to the question of manpower, let the Premier not fear. My people in the Elu Elu District County Council in Bende Division are with him and his Government and we urge that they continue to fight. God be with them!

*Ministry of Finance.*—I have nothing to quarrel about this Ministry. I will rather thank the Minister for the successful manner in which he has handled the finances of this Region. However, I appeal to him to provide more funds for the Ministry of Works to enable the Minister to make adequate provisions for the road projects in this Region.

*Ministry of Works.*—My thanks go to the Ministry of Works whose services to this Region have been very laudable, especially during the past year, 1963-64. The view expressed by one of the hon. Members in this House yesterday that it remained a little for all the roads in the Eastern Nigeria to be tarred completely receives my warmest support. This, in fact, is a good venture hatched by the efficient Ministry of Works.

However, I have a few remarks to offer to the Ministry of Works. The Elu Elu District County Council in Bende Division is my area of authority. This area has completely been forgotten by the Ministry of Works. The roads there are deplorable and they need Government's urgent attention, to save the people from further danger. The roads there are impassable by motor vehicles and pedestrians, and I pray that the Government should do something to save the situation.

The only tarred road in the area is the Umuahia-Arochuku road, and the people of the Elu Elu County Council area, have not been told when the Government would be prepared to tar the Item-Nkporo road to join Afikpo Road to Oso Edda. This road is very important. Many Ministers, both Regional and Federal, who pass through that road, and even our able Premier, know about the importance of this road. To say the least, the road is commercial in nature. There is also a short cut to Afikpo from Port Harcourt to Aba, and then through Umuahia.

There is one vital road to which I want to draw the Minister's attention, and I now call upon the Government to see that the tarring of this road is effected. This is the road from Umuahia to Bende, then to Isiegbu Ozuitem County Council Headquarters; there is also the road from Uzuakoli to Igbere and Akizie. We shall remain ever thankful to the Government if these roads are given early attention. They were earmarked for tarring since 1962



[CHIEF AGWU]

according to the Draft Estimates of Eastern Nigeria. I therefore appeal strongly to the Minister of Works to see that the tarring of these roads this year is no longer delayed.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—This Ministry should be commended for its efficient handling of the Customary Court matters. Something should now be done to provide suitable lock-ups to prevent prisoners from going out after the delivery of judgments by the Courts. If this is not done the bailiffs are prone to make friends with prisoners to help them escape from cells. I suggest that cells be now built for prisoners in all the Customary Courts in the Region. I further suggest that the Courts be given more powers to deal with criminals because highway men are spreading rapidly in rural areas.

*Ministry of Health.*—I have to thank this Ministry for having given Umunnato a Joint Hospital doctor back. I have to appeal to the Ministry also or anyone concerned to give us a Police Station . . .

**Chief Francis O. Joseph Allagoa, M.B.E.** (The Amanyanabo of Nembe): I thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words. I cannot say much about Nembe. I said on the floor of this hon. House sometime ago that Nembe people lack water, and that something should be done about it. I hope and trust that the Minister of Works will do something this year for the people of Nembe.

Coming to the question of roads in Nembe, I would say that Nembe is a central area, very central indeed. If a road is made between Nembe and Yenagoa it will highly be appreciated by my people, and Nembe will really become a central place. I request that this may be noted.

*Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—The Chiefs are working very hard but I must say that their salaries are poor. They have only £6 a month, and you can imagine a man doing such an arduous work to be paid only £6 a month. What do you expect him to do?

**Chief H. I. Akwitti** (Owerri Division): I rise to support the nice and constructive Appropriation Bill presented by the Minister

of Finance. Before going on, I have to give my comment on the running of the various Ministries.

I call upon our Premier and his Ministers to unite efforts in seeing that the proposals laid down in the Speech by the Governor are implemented so as to meet the actual needs of the people of Eastern Nigeria.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—I have to congratulate the Minister for his good activities during the financial year 1963-64. I will still ask that more industries be spread all over the Region, especially to the rural areas.

*Ministry of Works.*—I praise the Minister for undertaking the work on Igrita-Okpuala-Mbaise-Umuezeala-Okigwi road. My people are particularly very happy about the long proposal which has now come to materialize, even though some people have started to say that work on the road was not going to continue, but I am convinced that this Government will ever fight to see that the road is built without looking back. Also, I am reminding the Minister to see to another important road, that is Eka-Ngum-Onicha-Ezinihite-Umunwawa-Umuahia-Ibeku road. Another request I wish to make to the Minister is about water scheme for which my people—Okeororo and Ezinihite West—have deposited a huge sum of money since two years ago. I would like the advice of the Minister very soon.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs is commendable in that he has accorded Chieftaincy institution the respect and regard it deserves but that is not the end. He knows what I mean. We want Government to bring our salary to what it was in 1961 and let the arrears follow up.

*Census.*—I want to declare without reserve that we the people of Owerri Division stand with the Government of Eastern Nigeria on the census issue and that we shall pool all the resources at our command in support of the Government stand on the census issue. I hope there will be no dissenting voice any time it comes up in this House.

Finally, I am asking the Minister of Information to remember Owerri when Television comes into operation in the Divisions.



**Chief Sampson I. Adoki** (Degema Province) I thank you very much for calling upon me this morning to speak. In rising to support the Appropriation Bill I shall be very brief because it is said that much talk is not wise.

*Ministry of Works.*—Sometime ago I asked the Minister of Works to build a bridge for crossing over to Okrika. Of all the river towns Okrika is nearest to the mainland and it will be very wise to connect it with a bridge. It is not good for a Minister who wants to go to Okrika to go first to Port Harcourt and board a launch to Okrika. If the bridge I am asking for is built a Minister going to Okrika can go straight from Enugu, finish his business and go back to Enugu, thereby saving time and money.

I am calling on the Minister of Customary Courts to see that a Magistrate Court is built in Okrika. The present house which they are using is the Police Recreation House—the property of the Police. Therefore, we want the Minister to put up a permanent building for the Magistrate.

Another thing I want to bring to the knowledge of the Minister of Education is the question of establishing a Girls' Secondary School in Degema. We want Government to establish a Girls' Secondary School in Degema Division. Educate a woman and you have educated a nation. Everybody can see how the educated wife of the Premier assists him in his work.

Another thing I want to draw the attention of the Government to is tax collection. It is a very hard task. Without tax collection there will be no money to support our Government. When tax collection was introduced in Okrika in 1928 I was a tax collector. I was a tax collector for twenty years. I support the Chief who said that the time limit when all taxes should be paid should be September. After that time strong people should be sent to collect the taxes. The meaning of rates should be explained to the local people, because they do not know why rates are collected. Many of them think that it is a kind of "Awufu". It should be explained that money realized from rates is used in developing the area concerned.

**The President:** Three minutes more!

**Chief Adoki:** I always take time to talk because at every little mistake people will comment.

Finally, I would like the Minister of Local Government to draw a clear distinction between the work of the Ministry and that of the County Council. The confusion about this causes a lot of misunderstanding in my Division. Let the Minister do something to draw a clear mark.

**Chief N. Duru** (Orlu Division): I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I wish to assure the Premier and the Government of Eastern Nigeria that my people of Orlu North-east, unshakably support them in their stand on the inflated census figures. I thank also the God Almighty who has given us a man like Ogbuefi Nnamdi Azikiwe through whom this country secured its freedom. The Federal Government is ours. We are the leaders and the architects of the Federation; therefore the Hausa people who were sleeping when the struggle for independence was going on should not by indirect way reject our people in the Federal Government.

*Ministry of Works.*—I thank the Minister of Works for the work he has done in other areas other than in my area. I have to remind him that my area is being neglected by him. The Uruala-Nwabosi-Isiekenesi-Okwele-Okigwi road is only eleven miles. This road connects all the important roads in Eastern Nigeria, such as Onitsha-Okigwi-Owerri-Aba-Port Harcourt-Awka. This road is in a dangerous condition. Along the road live four hon. Members such as Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, Federal Minister of State, hon. Agim, Minister of State, Ministry of Education, hon. E. N. Njaka and myself. The people of the area have long been expecting that Government should have tarred the road taking into consideration the hon. Members living along it. But having been disappointed by not having tarred the road, the people now begin to look down on us and call us all sorts of names, and this as you know means a lot to the Government to which we all belong. In the Governor's Speech, the road was mentioned. We now hope that something will be done this year to tar it. This road is popularly known in the area as "Honourable Road" because of the hon. Members living there. I therefore ask the Minister of Works to take immediate steps



## [CHIEF DURU]

to see that the road is tarred. The Akokwa-Aro-Ndizuogu-Okigwi road was also mentioned in the Governor's Speech. From Akokwa to Aro-Ndizuogu there is no other road than this leading to either Awgu, Awka or Okigwi; so the road stops at Aro-Ndizuogu.

I am therefore asking the Minister of Works to see to it that the road is tarred because the plan was from my late brother Mbonu Ojike. Orlu North-east is a neglected area; there is no industry sited there and the roads are neglected. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to take Orlu North-east into consideration when allocating amenities.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—I give a vote of thanks to the Minister of Local Government for the good work done to the Orlu North-east County Council. The Orlu North-east County Council is one of the councils he has given increased powers; so I thank him for that.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—I thank the Minister for filling the vacancies in the Nwabosi Customary Court and appointing good people as judges.

We have confidence in the hon. Premier and the Ministers. They are very good leaders, and I wish them God's guidance.

**Chief F. Princwill Amachree, M.B.E.** (The Amanyanabo of Kalabari): I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I wish to congratulate the Premier for his first statement on the census figures. I wish more copies of this statement to be printed and circulated so that those who still have doubts in their minds, will know the true position regarding the inflated census figures as announced by the Prime Minister of the Federation. I believe that the only alternative is for the Prime Minister to reject these figures or to amend the Constitution in such a manner as to allow equal representation in the Federal House of Representatives.

The introduction of competitive entrance examination to the civil service is a step in the right direction. When I was a boy it was difficult for any one to enter the civil service except through the competitive examination. Boys who had no one to sponsor them would find their way to jobs by passing the

competitive examination. The Government should also take care that the machinery for setting question papers and correcting the papers should be left with the University so that no unscrupulous person might cause papers to leak.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—Degema has very little or no industry sited there, and we have very good water transport. If the Minister will consider establishing a saw-mill and possibly plywood industry they will provide employment for the unemployed.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—Now that Customary Courts have been established everywhere in the Region, I wish the Minister to consider revising the salary scale of judges because for a man to be in a full-time job for a whole month and be paid only £7 or so is bad. I believe that their present salary is very small and might lead them to serious temptation.

*Ministry of Education.*—I am very glad indeed that the Government has considered it fit to control college fees. Proprietors who are out to exploit people should be told to close down if they will not accept the Government controlled fees.

*Ministry of Health.*—Degema has a very old hospital. It was built during the colonial days. It is strange that although we have a Senior Medical Officer there he has no one to assist him. When he goes on tour there is hardly anybody left to take charge of the in-patients, and for a long time now it was said that a second Medical Officer would be posted there. A house has been built for the second doctor, but up to this moment no second doctor has been posted there. So I appeal to the Government to do something in this regard and the earlier this is done the better for all concerned.

*Ministry of Justice.*—You have Bonny and other places having magisterial sessions. The Magistrate does not hold sessions in Buguma and most of the cases being heard at Degema are taken there by Buguma people. It would be a very nice thing if Government would consider making it possible for the Magistrate to hold sessions at Buguma for the convenience of the litigants.

It is a very long felt need that there should be a road between Buguma and Degema. For



some time it was mooted that Government would take up the road but up to the moment nothing has been done. If the Minister would consider taking up the road, the people there would be very happy. There is also the proposed pontoon to connect Degema—Abua—Ahoda—Agada road. The pontoon has not been provided up to this moment and the people are very anxious that something should be done. There are very few roads in our area and the only way to get quick access to Port Harcourt and other places is by the provision of pontoon at Agada. If these things could be done the people would be very grateful.

**Chief P. M. Abue** (Ogoja Division): I beg to seize this opportunity to thank the hon. Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara, for the appointments given to our men—the hon Mr K. J. N. Okpokam, hon. J. A. Jumbo and Chief the hon. I. I. Morphy—as Provincial Commissioner, Parliamentary Secretary and Whip, respectively, which give evidence of the gradual approach of our men into his Cabinet.

I here also express my gratitude and support to the hon. Premier on the population census issue and wish he stands firmly too on the issue of the proposed expulsion of the Ibos from the North and confiscation of their property. My appeal is to all non-Ibos too, to contribute their bit on the issue, because this threat is to the non-Northerners in general for now the attack is in particular on the Ibos, but soon, it will be on all Southerners.

I appeal to the hon. Premier to use his good offices to remedy the situation of the proposed Tobacco Industry in Ogoja as this is an issue that offers undue advantage to some mean, local politicians to have a say in the government of the Division.

May I take this chance, too, to notify the Premier that none of the sons and daughters of Ogoja in the Police Force has had promotion to the higher ranks (comparing with their neighbours from other parts of the Region). I therefore appeal to the hon. Premier to remind the Commissioner of Police, Eastern Region about it.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—The activities of this Ministry and the high standards of our produce are too obvious to mention. With

regard to the Farm Settlement Scheme, however, I may appeal to the hon. Minister of Agriculture to see that special preference be given to natives of the soil at the next recruitment of settlers. It is rather unfortunate, and unhappy, I dare say, to remember how at the last selection of settlers into the Boki Farm Settlement in Ogoja, the non-natives greatly outnumbered those from the Division. Ogoja is a land that flows with milk and honey. Accordingly, our sons grow up with a natural interest in Agriculture. The desire among the people to participate in the agricultural progress of the country is also obvious. Ogoja sons should therefore be considered for technical training, particularly in agriculture.

*Ministry of Education.*—The necessity for this Ministry is unquestionable, being chiefly concerned with the moulding of our children's character to emerge into the world as good and useful citizens. My thanks go to the hon. Minister for the already high standard of education in the Region. But I am sorry to say that in the field of education Ogoja is still left in a rather deplorable state. To raise the number of scholars in order to match with the growing population of Ogoja and to help keep at pace with the other provinces, more secondary and university scholarships should be awarded to the sons and daughters of Ogoja.

**An hon. Chief:** Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (1):

“A member shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.”

**Chief Abue:** *Ministry of Works.*—This is one of the Ministries which sometimes rather provides too much for the welfare of some areas while caring less for others in the rural areas. I therefore call on the hon. Minister to hasten development in Ogoja. In the speech at his last visit to Ogoja last year, the hon Minister told the people of Ogoja Division that:

- (1) a permanent bridge would be constructed across the Abakpa River in Ogoja town, in place of the present Bailey Bridge;
- (2) pipe-borne water would be provided to Ogoja town;



[CHIEF ABUE]

- (3) there would be an extension of the tarring of the Ogoja road to Obudu, and through Abakpa to the Boki Farm Settlement;
- (4) there would be water points in the rural areas in Ogoja Division.

I therefore appeal to the hon. Minister of Works to hasten the implementation of the above projects, preferably before the next dry season. Ogoja Province is not marching abreast with the rest of the Region by way of amenities. On the strength of this, I wish to state that any development in Ogoja should be carried out at a rate which will raise Ogoja to the level of the other Provinces in the Region.

I wish to say that a few days ago we saw many hon. Members of the House of Assembly who are touring the Region to see agricultural and industrial projects of Government. I am now appealing to Government to allow hon. Members of this Upper House to go out and see things in the Region for themselves too. This opportunity given to Members of the lower House should be extended to Members of the Upper House. I trust the Minister concerned will make the necessary arrangements to enable Members of this House to tour the Region and see things for themselves after the Budget Session.

Another thing is that when we come here we raise certain matters and we do not have any means of knowing what has been done until the next Budget Session. It should be possible for us to know that matters raised have been done. We know that the Ministers are working hard but such information should be given to us.

**Chief J. D. Agba** (Obudu Division): In supporting the Appropriation Bill, I wish to make a few observations. First of all I have to thank our beloved Premier and his team, the Members of the Cabinet of this Region, for their gigantic success during the big election in the Mid-West where we captured a majority of seats. I hope that the same determination and the same zeal will carry him through again in the Federal elections and we, the Chiefs, will not disappoint the Government of Eastern Nigeria.

*Ministry of Internal Affairs.*—The people of Obudu Division very warmly express their appreciation to the Minister for the kind co-operation he and the Government gave in

releasing the people who were sentenced to life imprisonment. It is the greatest anxiety of the people and their wish that the other two who are still remaining should be freed to join their brothers. We are also very grateful to this Ministry for the marvellous assistance it has given to the people of Eastern Nigeria by encouraging them to promote Community Development projects. Many by-passes have been improved, culverts have been built over little brooks and creeks, but I think much more is still expected of this Ministry.

*The Ministry of Information.*—Obudu and other areas of the Region are very grateful to this Ministry for extending the cinema shows, which are free, to the people of Eastern Nigeria. This is really a practical teacher educating the people on what is happening in every part of the Region.

*Ministry of Works.*—This is a Ministry to which the people of Obudu Division and their brothers of Ogoja Province have been singing the song, "Tar Ogoja-Obudu road". This song is so old that I think it is more or less a poison.

**Some hon. Members:** The hon. Chief should change the tune !

**Chief Agba:** I hope the Ministry of Works will, at this time, give a serious thought to the Ogoja-Obudu road and consider extending it to the Cattle Ranch.

*Ministry of Finance.*—We are really very happy with the financial statement of the Minister. On the question of tax, there are certain difficulties which are causing the depopulation of certain areas (and Obudu is one of the areas I have in mind). In these areas people are sometimes over-assessed. As a result most of the people have deserted the Division for the West. A good number of the people of that area are now living in Ondo, Owo, and some have crossed to the Spanish Island of Fernando Po. Many have left their families. This matter has been brought up in the Provincial Assembly, Ogoja. I wish to mention it here in case the Ministry or the Government is not aware of the serious situation.

*Ministry of Education.*—This Ministry is really doing excellent work. The question of



attacking an individual merely because he is holding the office on behalf of the Eastern Nigeria is what I cannot understand. Whatever a Minister does, he does it on behalf of the Region, on behalf of you and myself, and therefore the attack is not supposed to be made on the Minister but on the Region itself. I have found nothing wrong in what the Minister is doing to improve the standard of education in the Region. But I wish to ask that the Minister should do something with regard to equipment in the primary schools. The syllabus has been completely overhauled and alongside that, while we are attempting to copy the system of education in European countries, we will see that we need some other practical things—visual aids. The supply of these things to the primary schools is not adequate, and I think that if the situation is improved, education will be made easier for our children; things will become practical and the children will be able to follow up their lessons with better understanding. I know that this has not been done because we are just introducing the syllabus, and the Government is thinking very seriously of providing some grants to enable children find their lessons more practical and concrete than it is now.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—I think we owe much to the Minister. He has done much and there is no point of criticism at all. The way he has handled matters relating to either the replacement of staff or overhauling of the Courts is very exemplary, and the people of Obudu have placed their implicit confidence in him. We are appealing to the Minister that cases which are brought before him should be handled and treated urgently.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—This Ministry deserves our congratulations. The system of transfers which has been introduced is doing a world of good in the Region especially where certain people have remained in a Division or County Council for years and have almost felt that it is their place of birth, where they will live to see their grave. They have been made to go to other County areas where they will be able to exchange views and discover their faults. This is helping us a lot. Obudu has benefitted from this policy. There is one point I have to make about the County Council. There has been much exchange of staff between Obudu

and Ikom County Councils. It would be better to transfer these people to distant places. This does not mean that we are opposed to transfers to Ikom—we do not hate Ikom—but we feel that too many of our staff have been shifted to Ikom whereas they could have been transferred to other Divisions to broaden their outlook.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—We are very grateful to this Ministry, and particularly to the Premier who has demonstrated practically his keen interest in seeing that Eastern Nigeria should be known—not so much by words as by action—as an industrial Region. We have had surplus food during the season and many people were really happy. There is no famine and consequently no question of stealing and other evils of the past. The position, however, is that the farmers' products are not making a good sale. If enough market is provided for the products the Region will be benefitted tremendously.

**Chief G. A. Oluje** (Aba Division): I support the Appropriation Bill, 1964–65. In doing so I have to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance and the staff of the Internal Revenue for their useful work and able way the taxes of the Region were collected. Last year, 1963–64, the hon. Minister handed to us the "People's Budget" and as a sign of mounting progress and stability, the same hon. Minister has introduced this year what we call today the *Pragmatic Budget* with an estimated surplus of £1.62 million, Consolidated Revenue Fund of £5.58, and a total surplus of £6.8 million. The contribution to capital development which reads £3 million, it appears, will have a buoyant surplus of £3.8 million. Surveying the growth of the finances of the Region, one can easily deduce that the Region has made a remarkable progress although with much sacrifices.

The practice of changing car numbers by paying only twenty shillings to the licensing authority is not welcomed. It involves many people in buying old and useless cars whose numbers were changed. This, in my consideration, is fraudulent. Although it is a source of income for the Government, I think it is high time this practice was stopped because it does not obtain in any other Region of the Federation. The moral side of it is bad.



[CHIEF OLUJIE]

All the Members of the House of Assembly and House of Chiefs have suffered the austerity cut of 10 per cent. from their salaries. Now that our finances are buoyant, it is high time Government considered the lifting of these austerity measures and the restoration of the 10 per cent. cut on our salaries. In addition, we ask for the payment of arrears of all former deductions.

*Ministry of Education.*—Under Head 431, (from page E 91 of the Draft Estimates), the Ministry of Education is to spend £1.37 million. While the Ministry has done quite a lot, there is no provision for the conversion of Aba Government School to either a secondary or technical school which the people of Aba have been yearning for. The appeal is still on, and we hope the attention of the hon. Minister will be drawn to it. A promise was made . . .

**The Premier:** When?

**Chief Olujie:** But nothing has been done.

In taxation, Aba comes first in revenue making and it is reasonable to allow them this privilege of converting Aba Government School to either a technical or secondary grammar school now that many trade schools and technical schools are to be opened.

*Ministry of Works.*—Under Head 443, the Ministry of Works is to spend the sum of £2.4 million this year. I would not have been dealing on this matter but for the buoyancy of our finances. To my greatest surprise there was no provision made for bridging the Imo River at Akwete to connect Ogoni and Aba Divisions. The oil finds in this Region are mainly from these two areas, and you will agree with me that roads form a major factor in the wealth of a nation. If this bridge is built, it will connect the oil areas lying within Aba and Ogoni Divisions and this will facilitate the tapping of the resources from these areas. Another fact is the road leading from Ogwe to Ugba. A portion of it from Ngwa Iyiekwe has been tarred, but the other section has been left untarred. So I am calling on the Minister of Works to explore the possibilities of tarring these roads as early as possible.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—Under Head 427, this Ministry is to spend £1.59 million. Aba

Division has been yearning for a Farm Settlement, but there is no provision in the Estimates for the establishment of a farm settlement at Aba. Land offers have been made and it is advisable that the people should be given at least one farm settlement to meet the needs of the area.

I will not fail to thank the Government for rescuing Aba from the effect of erosion which nearly swallowed the township. The work is well done and Government's prompt action in this regard is very commendable.

**Chief M. O. Okongwu** (Udi Division): I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I say big thank you to the Minister of Finance for his excellent work.

First and foremost, I want to make it known to you that the entire people of Udi Division stand solidly behind the Premier in his stand regarding the recent census figures. Forward ever and backward never!

*Ministry of Education.*—I would like to place on record the appreciation of my people of the untiring effort by the Minister of Education to revolutionize education in Eastern Nigeria. I pray the Government to vote more money for the Ministry to enable him make more progressive changes on education so that the East may continue to lead.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—My thanks go to the hon. Minister of Local Government for his untiring efforts towards the steady progress in Local Government set up. I praise the way he patiently deals with the problems that arise and still have time to visit Council areas. He is a good mixer.

*Ministry of Health.*—My special congratulations go to the Minister of Health for the able way various diseases are being tackled. I note with interest that smallpox will, in no distant date, be wiped out from Eastern Nigeria. Vaccination was most vigorously done last year in many areas.

To the Minister of Commerce and Industry I say big thank you for his effort in establishing various industries in the Region.

May I be permitted to observe that our palm produce require good market, and effort to increase our sales overseas is not a waste of energy as this affects the whole community, economically, socially and otherwise.



The Minister of Works has endeared himself to the public by giving good water to many. I seize this opportunity to thank him for the water project he has undertaken at Ohellagu, Umana, and I in advance thank him for extending the project to Eke, Ebe, Egede, Ngwo and part of Oghe. May I point out that the road leading to the biggest Cashew Industry in West Africa and which is situated at Akama Oghe is overdue for tarring; likewise Uzo Uwani (Nsukka) to Ninth Mile Corner, Enugu. It is unknown that Government has these roads on the list. Delay affects trade and other local affairs of the area to be served.

I ally myself with the hon. Members who thanked the hon. Premier and his dear wife for their huge success in the Mid-West elections.

The Minister of Agriculture is to be thanked very much by all. In our own area there is plenty of food now in the town. You can get forty cups of garri for a shilling.

**Hon Members:** But the people have no money to buy with.

**Chief Okongwu:** So it is always good for everybody to become a farmer. If you have money in your pocket without food, you can die away of hunger. So I thank him very much for that.

**Chief F. N. Ogudoro (Aba Division):** I have to thank you for having allowed me to speak at this hour of the day and I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and the "Pragmatic Budget" of the year. In doing that, I have to go straight to the Ministry of Agriculture and say that our Premier saw that we were all facing towards the mighty ocean, all aspiring to go overseas. On coming back, he turned the attention of all of us to the land. He said "back to the land. Go and farm and have plenty to eat". Since this is so I wish to suggest to Government to endeavour to site one farm settlement in Aba. This will make it possible for many children who have not got something to do to be able to find some pennies for sustenance. Government should also see that secondary school boys and others of higher learning who are not able to gain employment in offices are helped to get into these farm settlements. Moreover, I feel that as Aba is a centre of trade for the Region a farm settlement is rather very necessary,

not only to serve the Ngwa people, but the entire people who live in Aba. There are a lot of non-Ngwa people in Aba and they will gain more. In fact, they too want something to be done for their children and we all will benefit by a farm settlement if it is established.

On the Ministry of Education I wish to say that it is clearly understood that since the introduction of U.P.E. or what is commonly known as L.A. schools, there has been a lot of confusions all over the Region. I feel Government should undertake one more survey of schools with a view to closing down Voluntary Agencies where it is found that L.A. schools are more viable and *vice versa*. The various communities engage in reckless competition which in return is breaking them financially.

I have to refer to the Ministry of Local Government, and thank the Minister honestly for the way in which transfers are made and at the same time for granting some Councils, of which my Council is one of them, extension of their lives. That is very interesting indeed and interprets that Government is not asleep and that the Premier and his Cabinet are awake and doing their best for the benefit of the masses.

On the Ministry of Commerce, I wish to say that there are many people wanting to open up industries at Aba. I pray that opportunity be given to these people to establish and that those who have already started such as the Christian Industrial College be allowed to go ahead with their projects. The man of this Christian Industrial College has invested all his money in putting up so many permanent buildings. I am appealing that he should be allowed, since it is not for commercial purpose but development project, to operate so that children who are already, and who intend to go there may be comforted.

I now turn to the Minister of Internal Affairs. He is more or less our middleman and I appeal to him to intervene on our behalf about the ever rising cost of imported goods such as beer, hats and so on. I know that it is not the responsibility of this Region to impose high taxes on imported goods but I implore the Minister to forward our appeal to the Federal Government to do something about this rise in the cost of imported goods. It is high time the Federal Government did something to bring down the tax on imported goods. We



[CHIEF OGUDORO]

pay as much as 1d per packet of sugar and I think that it is high time the austerity measure is arrested.

When we talk about chieftaincy title we really mean that the institution should not be tampered with. There are a lot of people who brag about as Chiefs. I think it is high time Government helped us to see that nobody goes about calling himself a Chief.

*Sitting suspended at 12.04 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.*

**The President:** A few hon. Members have not spoken since this Meeting started on the 6th of April. I will give them a chance to speak before allowing others who have already spoken. I have got the names of three. After they have spoken, anyone who has not spoken at all since morning may be given a chance. Let justice be done.

**Chief P. U. Obodoeze (Nsukka Division):** I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have some observations to make.

**Chief Ogudoro:** Point of Order. I was speaking when we went out on recess. I should have been allowed to finish my speech before any other person is allowed to speak.

**The President:** The hon. Member is justified. Justice should be done.

**Chief Ogudoro:** I was on the question of telephone installation. I pray the Government of Eastern Nigeria to press it on the Federal Government to see that Local Councils are given telephones. Telephones will help to run the affairs of the Councils expeditiously and efficiently. Eastern Nigeria is a Region which everyone must be proud of. A lot of development and improvements are taking place. We have things like television being extended to all places in the Region, so we want telephone services extended to Councils.

It is true we should not confer chieftaincy titles on everybody. But I ally myself with speakers who think of Mrs Adanma Okpara being conferred a chieftaincy title. I therefore suggest that chieftaincy title be conferred on her. She has been doing a lot of good work and therefore she deserves the title. She will

continue to do the good work until she grows old.

Also I pray that the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs should call on the Government to amend the Customary Courts Law so as to merge some unviable ones and to increase the number of Customary Court judges where necessary. In some areas the Courts do not sit for a month or two due to lack of people.

If the law is amended some other members could be brought in so that those Courts that are not able to function well could be merged. Also the number of people sitting in a court should be reduced; they should rather sit in rotation. This will make for economy. I do not want to waste your time. I pray that the Government continue with the good work they are doing.

**Chief P. U. Obodoeze (Nsukka Division):** I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. In doing so I have some remarks to make. The first goes to the Ministry of Works. I have been talking on the floor of this House on the taking over of the following road: Omor-Umumbo-Ifute-Ogwari-Omasi-Umuje-Adani road. But I do not know whether the Ministry misunderstood me. There is great difference between this road and 9th Mile Corner-Olo-Umulokpa-Adaba-Ukpata-Nkpologu road. These roads are very different. Omor-Umumbo-Ifute is the shortest road to the Uzo-Uwani Farm Settlement.

**Ministry of Justice.**—I am appealing to the Minister of Justice to see that the Customary Courts Adviser is prompt and accurate in replying to letters from the Courts in the Region. Some people complained that their cases had been transferred from the District to the Magistrate's Court, but that when a letter was written to the Customary Courts Adviser to confirm whether the cases were transferred or not, he failed to reply. As a result of his failure these cases were unduly delayed in the Court because they were still waiting to hear from him. This is why I said that he should see that efforts are made to give prompt action to letters.

**Ministry of Commerce.**—It has been rumouring that there will be a Sugar Industry in the Do area of Anambra, but up till now nothing has been done about it. I have to say that



this Ministry is paying less attention to the establishment of this Sugar Industry.

About the Uzo-Uwani road, I do not know whether the Minister is interested in this road or not, because the people are ready to give their land out so that work on their plantation could start. It appears the Minister is less interested.

*Artesian Water Borehole at Umumbo.*—We have been begging the Minister to extend this Artesian Borehole to Omor Anaku Umerum but up till now he has not done anything. We are appealing to him to pay attention to that place because water is very important to human life. The people in that area are paying their taxes regularly and supporting the Government during the time of election with a hundred per cent. vote. May the Minister in charge please take note. I have said it several times in this hon. House so that these towns may enjoy the amenities which others are enjoying.

**Chief W. A. Uguba** (Afikpo Division): I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill, and in doing so, I will first of all congratulate our able Premier on the way he easily and quickly detected and rejected the inflated census figures. I have to assure him that whether dying or living the whole community and the Council of Afikpo have confidence in him and he should carry on. I also thank all the Ministers. They are doing their very best. For that reason I have not got much comment against them since their integrity has been above board. We have confidence in their leadership.

But I just want to make mention of a few things—

*Ministry of Works.*—Just imagine Afikpo-Unwana road, a distance of only eight miles, which has been tendered since three years ago, has not been completed up till date. As it is, it appears that the Governor and the people of his area will still have to suffer the mud and bad roads during this rainy season. For this reason, it will be highly appreciated if the Minister can urge the contractors concerned to speed up the work and finish this road before the rains become heavy.

*Water Supply.*—Unwana has been surveyed since last year, but since then nothing has been

done. We shall be grateful if immediate action is taken.

May I also remind the Minister of Works that Obubra was one of the community rural areas, and since the timber contractors have started their business there it is essential that a new road be constructed from Obubra to Calabar, which is the short and the straight way for transporting the timber direct to England.

*Highway Robbers.*—I have just heard some Members mentioning something about highway robbers, but whenever this matter is touched it seems to be overlooked.

I should suggest to the Government, if it could be possible, to arrange for a distant island where all the highway robbers should be isolated when caught, and then the people of the surrounding areas of that island and other traders restricted from going near the island, and that efforts and arrangements be made by the Government to provide them with food through a launch with armed police, once a week.

Nigeria is no longer Nigeria of yesterday but Nigeria of today. I am calling upon the Premier and his Ministers to check highway robbery in the same able way they have been handling the other affairs of the Region, especially this year that we are able to have one million pounds budget surplus.

**Chief P. W. A. de Orji** (Aba Division): In rising to support the Appropriation Bill for 1964-65, I have the following observations to make:—

I thank the Premier and all the Ministers for their efforts in keeping the Region on a good standard. I think everybody in Eastern Nigeria is doing something good by keeping the laws of the country and from my observations, Eastern Nigeria, led by our strong Government is the first in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

*Finance.*—In supporting the Appropriation Bill for 1964-65, I have to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for the able way he has handled the finances of the Region and presented the Budget. The Budget is a sound one and I hope that this will continue in future.



[CHIEF ORJI]

Now that the finances of the Region are healthy, I call on the Minister and his colleagues to wipe out the austerity deductions of 10 per cent. from the Chiefs' emoluments. I have to add that all the amounts already deducted should be paid back to us. The Chiefs are suffering much and should not be over-taxed.

*Premier's Office.*—I beg to report that a few years ago the First-class Chief from Umuahia Province, Chief J. Wachuku, died. The death was a blow to us. Late Chief Wachuku when alive took part actively in the affairs of this Region and made useful contributions to the debates in this hon. House. We liked him. Up till now no one has been appointed to replace him. I call on the hon. Premier to speed up this appointment. We have qualified people to be appointed First-class Chiefs in Umuahia Province, Aba Division in particular.

*Ministry of Works.*—This Ministry has done a lot to clean up the Region by tarring roads, building bridges and supplying water. I know that the needs of people are many and the needs will not all be solved in a day. They must be faced gradually. But I have to mention that the Aba-Eketa-Mbawsi road has been shown in the estimates for many years. This road is very important because of palm produce evacuation and other commodities. I pray the Minister in charge to try and tar this very important road in Aba Division.

*Education.*—May I take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Education for the controlling of college fees. This exercise has helped both the rich and poor alike.

*Commerce.*—The building of the Textile Mill at Aba is progressing. I hope the mill will start work this year. I thank the Government for siting the mill at Aba because it will be a source of revenue. One important matter is the poor condition of the Catering Rest House at Aba which is also revenue-making. The Rest House is not running at a loss. People are patronizing it very well but the buildings are poor and even the road leading to the Rest House is one of the worst roads in Aba. This in turn can drive away customers and reduce revenue. People want to have the value for their money spent and they should be given maximum satisfaction.

*Agriculture.*—Other Divisions are blessed with Farm Settlements or other agricultural enterprises. Aba is not. The Government is doing quite a lot of work. We have the land and manpower for this scheme. The Aba Chiefs' Conference has mandated me to ask Government to institute a Farm Settlement in Aba Division. We know that Aba has a large population and when this is introduced, it will benefit both the local people and strangers.

**Chief E. O. Atakpa** (Enyong Division): I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. I have also a few observations to make as a testimony to different Ministries. Before proceeding with the Ministries I have to give general thanks to the Government of Eastern Nigeria for the good work they have carried out during the 1963-64 Financial Year. We are satisfied with all the undertakings they have done in the interest of this Region, but I have a few remarks and suggestions to make on each of these Ministries for future guidance.

*Ministry of Education.*—I have to give thanks to the Minister of Education for his good work. He is of a unique personality. He is simple, calm, generous and hospitable. I can say he is a gentleman above board. The unjustified attack launched out against the hon. Minister by the Catholic authorities cannot be entertained. The move has been made against a wrong person. He has been a very good man in the Eastern Nigeria Government from the early days to this present moment. We have never heard people murmuring about his character as a Minister in this Region. He is a personality we have to respect. As regards complaint against him by the Catholic Mission, whatever recommendations are made in his Ministry are recommendations made by the Board of Education set up by the Government to deal with such matters. Before a decision on such recommendations is made consultations with the different denominations, primary schools, colleges, secondary schools, and universities, if necessary, shall have been made. Personally the Minister has nothing to contribute other than to endorse the recommendations made by the Board of Education which must have taken into consideration the representations of the respective denominational bodies and institutions in matters they are directly connected. It is therefore advisable that I warn on the floor of this House certain functionaries of Government, whether Ministers, Private Secretaries,



Parliamentary Secretaries, etc., who are managing this move by the Catholic Mission to desist from such dangerous and reckless fun. They are giving support to the Catholic move; otherwise the Catholic authority could not have been making such a challenge against the constituted authority in Eastern Nigeria. I therefore advise the Catholic Authority and their followers to avoid this type of trouble because it is not encouraging at all. We do not want to start a religious battle because of single demand made by a particular denomination, forgetting that there are other denominational bodies that are even in majority but have accepted Government decision. The Government change policy in accordance with the advancement of education. We are marching forward and not backward, so that whether or not the Catholic Authority likes it it is their own place to accept this decision without prejudice.

I turn now to teachers. I have little to say about them. The condition of teachers in this Region is not encouraging enough. Most of our leaders seem to forget their early background. Most of these leaders were teachers in their early days before they became what they are today. These teachers, especially those in the rural areas, do much to help the Government during elections. During the census enumeration in 1963 about 90 per cent. of the head count was done by teachers. But unfortunately it was at that time that many of the teachers were not paid and some were being dismissed so that there were hue and cry and human nature being what it is, the work of the census was not satisfactorily done; the result was grossly inaccurate figures.

**The Premier:** I would like to correct that wrong impression. There is no doubt that the teachers who did the enumeration did their work honestly and well. I think it is unfair to blame them for any of the troubles we are now facing over the census. Our figures were accurate. That is what we wanted—an honest count.

**Some hon. Members:** Chief Atakpa, withdraw.

**Chief Atakpa:** I withdraw.

*Ministry of Health.*—As a matter of fact, the Minister of Health did a great deal of work to

raise the standard of his Ministry's performance and I have to thank him. In addition, I would suggest that a research be made into our native herbs in the interest of our country. I feel that it will help a great deal to relieve us of most of our ills, so that when European drugs fail us we can use our medicines in the treatment of our diseases.

In addition to the above, I would appeal to the Minister of Health to seek the permission of the Minister of Local Government to increase grants to Local Government Dispensaries. The increase in population must be followed with increase of grants. The Local Government Councils will not be able to provide us sufficient medical facilities without increased grants being given to them.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—I have to thank the Minister, but I have certain observation to make and it is on the petitions made by plaintiffs in the Customary Courts. When such petitions are presented they are normally referred to the Customary Courts Adviser who at times likes to make reply direct, and that gives room for bribery and corruption. More powers should be delegated to the Customary Courts, and the Divisional Officer should be attached to the court to give advice.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—I observe that there is a move now by the Eastern Nigeria Government to consolidate lands.

**The President:** I want to announce that those who have not spoken since the House started should give me their names so that I may be fair to them and give them a chance to speak. But in view of the fact that no such names have been given to me I have been calling those who have spoken before to speak. So if you have never spoken, please stand up.

**Chief U. U. Ibanga** (Ikot Ekpene Division): I want to support the Eastern Nigeria 1964-65 Appropriation Bill, and in doing so I would like to make a few observations. First, I want to say that Ikot Ekpene is so rich in palm wine and can supply the whole country. At the moment they are supplying most of the towns in Eastern Nigeria, like Umuahia, Enugu, and so on. I am appealing to Government to establish an industry in which palm wine will be used at Ikot Ekpene.



[CHIEF IBANGA]

I want to say too that there are many Standard VI school leavers in Ikot Ekpene but there are no jobs for them, because there are no industries. Because of this lack of job opportunity for them, many of them join these highway robbers known as *Amauke*. We have tried all we can to check these thieves: we have set up village night guards. But the truth is that they steal because they have no hand work.

*Ministry of Customary Courts.*—While I congratulate the Minister for the good work his Ministry is doing, I want to remind him that the salary paid to court judges is too poor. This encourages bribery. Government should consider increasing the judges' salary.

*Ministry of Works.*—The next point I want to make is that Government should consider providing Ikot Ekpene township with good drainage. During the rainy season the whole town is flooded.

**Chief E. O. Nwonye** (Nsukka Division): I thank the President for allowing me to speak for a while. I congratulate the Eastern Nigeria Government for all their past good work. I want to appeal to the Minister of Health to establish a Government hospital in my area. From my village, Ehamufu, to Nsukka is about forty-two miles and apart from the hospital at Nsukka my people have no other hospital to attend. Ehamufu has great population but there are no Government amenities in the area. Many people die in the area because of lack of medical facilities. I want the Government to do something about it.

I am appealing to the Minister of Agriculture to establish agricultural projects in Ehamufu area because Ehamufu has fertile land and any agricultural plantation established there will be beneficial to the Government. I would also want the Minister of Agriculture to establish a Farm Settlement in Ehamufu area.

May I also invite the attention of the Minister of Works to the fact that we have no good roads in Ehamufu. Ehamufu is entirely forgotten in all amenities of Government. I wonder why Ehamufu is neglected in such a way. So I am appealing to the Minister of Works to construct a road or two to Ehamufu. The road we have is so bad that sometimes my car would stop on the way. There is no road leading to my village. I am appealing to the Eastern Nigeria Government to see to this too.

I also want to say that in the northern sector of the railway line the bridges are protected whereas in the eastern sector they are open and not protected, and this has been responsible for the loss of many lives. I want the Government to look into this because so many lives have been lost.

May I remind the Minister of Justice that we have been promised a Police Station for a long time now in Ehamufu. Ehamufu is at the boundary between the Eastern and Northern Nigeria and a Police Station is very necessary there. Most of the crimes—*theft* and so on—committed in Ehamufu are committed not by the natives of Ehamufu but by the people from Northern Nigeria.

Many hon. Members may have heard about a large sum of money stolen at the Ehamufu Railway Station. Those who stole the money were not Ehamufu people. There was another incident in which one woman was killed by the Northerners and if there was a Police Station at Ehamufu all such things would be checked by the Police. I am appealing to the Government that a Police Station be set up at Ehamufu.

I have no more to say than to appeal to the Government to give amenities to our area.

**Chief N. U. Ofem, M.B.E.** (Abakaliki Province): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. In doing so I have to thank the hon. Minister of Finance for his eloquent and broad-minded Budget Speech. The Eastern Nigeria Government is fortunate to have men of integrity and men who are God-fearing to steer the affairs of this progressive Region.

I hope I am making a timely application and trust the hon. Minister of Commerce will take particular note. The carrying of coal to New Castle should not happen in this Region. For sixty years to come Obubra Division in Abakaliki Province will continue to supply the world with timber. The Government should think seriously of establishing a Plywood Factory, Veneer and Chipboard Factory in Obubra Division where Messrs Brandler Ryke are supplying the world with timber of all kinds. I say carrying coal to New Castle should not be practised in this Region because the Government may in future hope to establish these factories in townships leaving the Division where timber is produced. With



the construction of the Calabar—Ikom road which passes through Obubra Division, and which Louis Berger (Inc.) is actively surveying, Obubra is no more inaccessible. The Eastern Nigeria Government has been doing very much to improve the living conditions of her citizens. Obubra Division should not be denied these amenities—the establishment of a Plywood Factory, Veneer and Chipboard Factory.

On rural water supply and tarred roads the hon. Minister of Works has my congratulations. The old adage "First come first served" should guide our Government. The Ugep pipe-borne water supply scheme for which a reservoir was built in 1961 is long overdue. Now that funds are available the Government should aim at completing projects which, owing to shortage of funds, have remained uncompleted. On the recruitment of labour in newly established projects, apart from ordinary labourers, the Government should aim at employing hands from the localities with the required educational attainments into senior posts. For a post like Estate Assistant, I think there is no Division in Eastern Nigeria that cannot produce holders of Grade II Teachers' Certificate and General Certificate of Education (advanced level) to man it.

I think it is high time the Standing Orders of this House were amended. With your permission, I refer to Standing Order 12 (1) and 12 (2) which read as follows:

"12 (1) The President shall immediately after Prayers or as soon as any Members have taken the Oath of Allegiance, read to the House any Message addressed to the House by Her Majesty the Queen, the Governor-General or the Governor.

"(2) A Message from Her Majesty the Queen, the Governor-General or the Governor if presented to the House by a Minister may be brought up at any time before the commencement or at the close of public business, and shall be considered forthwith or ordered to be considered upon a future day as the Minister presenting it may appoint."

I think "Her Majesty" and "Governor-General" should be *deleted* and the word "President" *inserted* therefor.

*Magistrate Court at Obubra.*—I urge Government to make it possible for the Magistrate sitting at Obubra for sessions to hold also at Ugep thirty-four miles from Obubra. The people of Yakurr and Bahomono clans, forty miles away from Obubra, are suffering untold miseries in travelling to Obubra each time they have a case. Owing to ignorance these people are never paid Crown Witness expenses. They are therefore left to be incurring incessant transport expenses to and from Obubra. Government should, please, minimize these people's sufferings and waste of money to attend the Magistrate Court sessions at Obubra.

**Chief E. E. Okpa** (Awgu Division): In supporting the Appropriation Bill I have a few remarks to make. I believe that it is not a sin for anybody to belong to the Ibo tribe. As this Region cannot make a valid law to protect the President of the Federal Republic from accusations and unnecessary dragging of his name in the mud by half-educated Ministers and Emirs of the North, I am asking this august House to pray the Government of Eastern Nigeria to request the Federal Government to enact a law which will make the President free from being publicly accused by any person or group of persons. This obtains in Ghana where the President cannot be accused in secret or in the open. We should not, because the Northerners are dominating the other parts of the Federation, allow the President of the Federation to be disrespectfully treated.

Secondly, I want to draw the attention of the Government of this Region to the Ministry of Education. I do not believe that any individual among the Cabinet Ministers is solely responsible for whatever he does as a person. Every Ministerial responsibility is collectively borne and no individual or group of individuals should attack any particular member of the Cabinet. Therefore, I should say that the Ministers should ignore any personal attacks on them in the discharge of their duties. But I would hammer on his delay to announce the Regional Scholarship awards for the year 1964-65. This delay will plunge most of the poor fathers into debt with the result that they will not enjoy the scholarships any more. For instance, if one had borrowed money to pay for the first term and probably for the second term and after all, a scholarship is granted to his son, the interest



[CHIEF OKPA]

on the money he had borrowed would not allow him enjoy the benefit that has been granted him by this Government. I am asking the Minister to speed up and publish the awards immediately.

Many things have been said about Chiefs. I am asking our Cabinet Ministers and the Leader of the Government of the Region that when the tour of the Premier and his Ministers commences in the Region, they should make provision to stop and pay homage to some of the Chiefs of the Region. For instance, if the Premier of the Region is coming to Awgu from Ihe on the 25th of April and he is to pass the house of Chief E. E. Okpa, he could make a brief stop at Ihe to greet the Chief. That goes to show that the Premier is aware that a Member of the House of Chiefs is living there. I believe every Chief can boast of the best drink in his domain. I for one can boast of Awgu special palm wine.

I also congratulate the Regional Government for the publication of the book *Distribution of Amenities in Eastern Nigeria*. This is an eye-opener to every corner of the Region. It shows that Government is not doing anything to ignore any part of the Region but that every section is remembered. I am sure that that will remain a guide to the Government of the Region in the distribution of further amenities. And under this heading I would like the Regional Government to consider those Divisions that have only one representative in the Eastern House of Chiefs when they want to appoint Special Chiefs. Moreover, Government should bear in mind that in certain areas in the Region there are very many traditional rulers, and for that reason, in appointing other Chiefs, no more should be conceded to them because they have had enough.

Another point I want to make about Chiefs is that Chiefs should have an idea of other places by way of touring.

**The President:** Time!

**The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs (Mr O. U. Affiah):** I wish to seize this opportunity to comment in general terms on some of the remarks made by hon. Chiefs concerning some aspects of my Ministry's work. I shall deal first with Customary Courts. The House will no doubt

be pleased to know that Customary Courts have been established in the whole Region and we now have twenty-nine County Courts, 295 District Courts and a total membership in both of 2,045 judges.

On the whole, Customary Courts have functioned very satisfactorily. In one respect the power of Customary Courts was restricted in that they could not commit a person for contempt of court without the final approval of the Customary Courts Adviser. I am pleased to announce that this restriction has now been removed because I am satisfied that the judges are doing their work well. I only hope the power will not be misused.

There is a great deal of complaint over the question of transfer of cases from one court to another. This is a matter that has caused me considerable concern and my Ministry is taking every possible step to improve the situation.

I now turn to chieftaincy matters. I am particularly happy and, I am sure the whole House is with me in this, that the Obong of Calabar has been accorded recognition and has been able to take his seat in this hon. House. May I seize this opportunity to say that chieftaincy institution is a matter that the Government feels very concerned about and is prepared to do everything to uphold it. Government will not normally interfere in the selection of a Chief unless there is such disagreement among the people that there is a likelihood of a breach of the peace. Similarly, Government does not indulge in indiscriminate deposition of Chiefs unless a Chief proves oppressive and shows complete disregard for custom. Fortunately the Chiefs of Eastern Nigeria practice democracy and believe in the ideology of Pragmatic African Socialism.

Some hon. Chiefs have appealed to Government to do away with what is referred to as honorary chiefs who are alleged to be usurping the functions of recognized Chiefs. I want to make it clear that my Ministry is not concerned with honorary chiefs. We do not make or recognise them; they are purely a local matter. If there are any who usurp the functions of recognised Chiefs, their act would be a contravention of sections 9, 10 and 11 of the Recognition of Chiefs Law, 1960, which carry a penalty of six months imprisonment or a fine of one hundred pounds. In conclusion,



Mr President, I appeal to all the Chiefs to co-operate with the Government in this matter by reporting to my Ministry any attempt by any person to usurp their powers.

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Finance (Mr J. M. Echeruo):** In winding up the debate on the Appropriation Bill, I would like to thank all the Chiefs of this hon. House for their contribution to the debate on the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. The standard of debate has been very high and constructive indeed. All these are indicative of their increasing maturity in parliamentary practice.

For my part I would like to assure these hon. Chiefs that their observations will be taken into serious consideration in my Ministry. What has been achieved has been due to the wonderful response of the Government, Chiefs, Parliamentarians, in fact, everybody in the Region and we all should pat ourselves on the back for the achievement so far made. This, of course, does not call for complacency.

Chief J. D. Agba (Obudu) complained that excessive assessment tended to drive his people away. In this regard I would like to point out that assessment is made by the local people who know the area very well. In any case, a taxpayer who feels aggrieved by his assessment is entitled under the law to appeal to the Tax Assessment Authority for a review.

Chief C. E. Amobi (Onitsha) and Chief Oluje (Aba) wanted the issuing of motor licences speeded up to eliminate congestion, particularly in large towns. Hon. Chiefs will be delighted to know that the matter has already been taken in hand not only by increasing the strength of our staff in the licensing offices and establishing more licensing and tax offices in many parts of the Region, but also by making each of the twelve months of the year a licensing month. The aim being to spread the load of issuing licences evenly throughout the year. Hon. Chiefs will agree that this tripartite approach to the problem will yield quick and useful results.

Hon. Chiefs are no doubt aware that tax collection is a most difficult and unpopular business and those who carry out this un-

popular assignment need the sympathy and co-operation of all if they are to raise the money needed for our roads and bridges, schools and hospitals, farm settlements and industries—in fact, every aspect of the social amenities which we all clamour for and also for the effective implementation of our Development Plan.

Once again, Mr President, I am grateful to all the Chiefs who have contributed to this debate.

**The Premier (Dr M. I. Okpara):** May I seize this opportunity to thank all the hon. Members of this Upper House for their clear expression of loyalty and support to my Government, especially on this very vexed question of the census. Our stand and utterances have now been placed at the bar of public opinion and the hon. Chiefs' reaction and those of millions of other Nigerians within and outside this country have assured us that our stand was the only honourable one to take, and that it will, as the years go by, surely be the only wise cause of action for any Government.

I have also noted the various requests that hon. Chiefs have been making on the floor of this hon. House, especially as regards development. The Executive Ministries, such as Agriculture, Education, Commerce, Health, Works and Local Government have come in for very frequent mention.

As you may be already aware, my Ministers and myself will be touring the various areas of the Region in the next few days to see for ourselves, the various local problems and the effects the Government policies are having on those local problems. When we are in those areas it will be possible for us to see what further steps will be taken to develop all the rural areas.

I wish to thank all again and to re-emphasize especially to those who wonder whether our Government will change our stand on this question of census that that is not possible. We will not agree to these figures being used to run the country because we are satisfied that the figures are very badly inflated. As I said before, the inflation is of an astronomical proportion.

I hope that hon. Chiefs will carry the message of this wonderful new budget to their areas.



[THE PREMIER]

Finally, may I assure them that we are planning for the whole Region—every section of the Region—not for any particular area, but for all the Divisions of this Region. Naturally, it will take us time before we can mount industries in every Division or every major town and provide all the various social services such as schools, hospitals, roads, water supplies. But we have set our hands to the plough and there is no turning back as far as that is concerned. As far as this Government is concerned, I wish to assure the House that by the time we have implemented the Development Plan, all Members will be satisfied.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time.*

*And it being certified a Money Bill—*

*Question: That the Bill be committed deemed to have been negatived—*

*Question—That the Bill be now read the Third time put forthwith and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to move that this House do now adjourn *sine die*.

**The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka):** I beg to second.

### ADJOURNMENT DEBATES

#### (1) Attack on King Jaja of Opobo

**The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief Douglas Jaja):** In replying to the attack on His Majesty King Jaja of Opobo by the hon. Chief William Pepple of Bonny on the floor of this House this morning, I have to clear some points raised by him. Bonny is the original home of the Opobos. King Jaja with his followers left Bonny in 1869 and founded an independent town—Opobo in 1870. King Jaja contributed in no small measure to the building of this great nation—Nigeria—when he laid

down his humble life for the freedom we are now enjoying.

King William Pepple did not make any contribution at all during his life time to the growth of Nigeria. The hon. Member stated that King Jaja was a slave boy and that it was part of his history that he rose from slavery to Kingship. I would say that the hon. Member's statement was irresponsible and uncalled for. The needs of Bonny are identical with those of Opobo: Opobo has no water supply, no electricity and no other industry than the Boatyard at Opobo. The history of King Jaja is well known in the whole world. There is a book here entitled *The King's Crocodile*—written by Hervert Kaufmann.

I beg to quote the Editor's Note as follows:—

“JAJA is a historical Figure. From 1870 until 1887 he ruled in the West African town of Opobo which he himself had founded. He died on his return voyage from St. Vincent in the West Indies where he had been banished after a highly controversial trial held under British auspices. Today, the Ibos of Nigeria regard Jaja as the greatest man their country has produced.”

“In this connection, I quote an extract of a letter written by James Irvien, a Merchant, to one Mr Nugent, on May 31st, 1882, about King Jaja: He said:

‘Let me now refer to Jaja, who was formerly a bought slave of the Pepple Family of Bonny. A slave born in the country is looked upon with respect and affection by the free men of that country; the bought slave is usually treated in every respect in a totally different manner, and therefore Jaja takes his rise from the lowest levels.

For many years before 1869 Jaja, by his industry and ability, had been gradually moving up to the front. In the year 1869 he had attempted to assume some considerable power in the country, and this resulted in an internecine war between him and the King of Bonny; the war lasted for twelve or eighteen months, and was fruitful of everything that was dreadful. He was there at the time, and saw much of it going on.’”

I realise that the hon. Member was unhappy in my appointment as a Minister of State, but he must understand that I was appointed by



the hon. Premier on merit, considering contributions of the late great man, King Jaja of Opobo.

Finally, I feel it is derogatory for Chief Pepple to grudge the honour accorded King Jaja in seeking recognition for King Pepple of Bonny. The accredited leaders of this Government, having regard to incontrovertible facts of history, are the best judges of the merits or demerits of either King.

**(2) Niger Delta Congress and the 1963 Census**

**Chief Zumoh Efeke V** (Yenagoa Province): I wish to say, on behalf of my people, that the statement by the Niger Delta Congress accepting the figures of the census does not

receive our blessing. My people dissociate themselves from that statement by the Niger Delta Congress accepting the 1963 census figures. As I said before on the floor of this hon. House, that body is not known in Yenagoa Province. The existence of that party is only by name. I am bringing it again to the notice of this hon. House and to Nigeria as a whole, that the people of Yenagoa do not support the statement of the Niger Delta Congress on the census issue.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned, sine die, at ten minutes to two o'clock p.m., pursuant to the Resolution of this House this day.*



## APPENDIX

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

#### Answers received during Adjournment

(2nd October, 1963 to 24th February, 1964)

##### Roads

5. **Chief P. U. Obodoeze** asked the Minister of Works, whether he will consider taking over and tarring the Umulokpa, Umumbo, Omor, Ifite Ogwarri, Umueje Omasi, and Adani roads.

**The Minister of Works:** The hon. Member has compiled a rather formidable list of names. Some of these places are on the Eke-Ole-Umulokpa and Nsukka-Nkpologu-Ogrugu roads which are included in the Development Programme. We are also improving the access road to Uzo Uwani Farm Settlement.

6. **Chief A. Okwoli** asked the Minister of Works, why he has not yet undertaken the tarring of the Nsukka-Ogrugu road and the road leading from the 9th-Mile Corner through Eke to Nkpologu.

**The Minister of Works:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply to question No. 4 given below for ease of reference.

4. **Chief P. U. Obodoeze** asked the Minister of Works, when will tarring of the 9th-Mile Corner-Umulokpa-Mkpologu road start.

**The Minister of Works:** This road will be tarred whenever funds are available. I am aware that this is becoming a stock answer but we cannot escape the fact that funds are limited and we must complete those projects which have already been started before commencing new ones.

8. **Chief S. N. Okore** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware of the bad condition and inaccessibility of the Nto Ndang-Arochuku-Ikot Okpora road especially during the rainy season; if so, when will the road be tarred.

**The Minister of Works:** I am aware that the condition of the Nto Ndang-Arochuku road was unsatisfactory until last year, when it was taken over as a Trunk B road by Government. Since then the road has been graded

and widened and the approaches to all bridges have been improved. The steepest hill on the road has already been tarred. I know that there are still bad patches near some of the bridges, especially after the recent torrential rains. However, the road is constantly being improved. The Arochuku-Ikot Okpora section is, to the best of my knowledge, quite passable even at this time of the year. Both sections of the road mentioned by the hon. Member are listed in the Development Plan for reconstruction and this will be undertaken whenever funds become available.

##### Water Supply

9. **Chief P. U. Obodoeze** asked the Minister of Works, when will water be supplied to the people of Omor and Anaku from the borehole at Umumbo, what contributions are the people required to make for the purpose.

**The Minister of Works:** The possibility of doing this has not been suggested to me before. I shall instruct my engineers to carry out an investigation and report on the feasibility of the project. If the report is favourable, the cost of the work will be estimated and the community informed so that they can decide whether they wish to go ahead with the scheme.

##### Membership of Councils

11. **Chief S. N. Okore** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he has ruled that traditional chiefs appointed into Urban or County Councils and who are appointed Customary Court judges should resign their membership of the Councils; if not, why should those in Aro-Ibo County Council be asked to resign their membership of the Council.

**The Minister of Local Government:** Section 20 (1) (j) of the Local Government Law of 1960 disqualifies a person from being a member of a Local Government Council if he becomes a member of a Customary Court. This section of the Law applies equally to all



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[Written Answers]

6 APRIL 1964

[Written Answers]

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Local Government Councils and must of course be strictly observed; but when a Traditional Member who is appointed *by title* in the Instrument setting up a Council accepts an appointment as a Customary Court judge, his seat in the Council will remain vacant and unfilled. Such a Traditional Member could therefore take his seat in the Council if he resigns or loses his office in the Customary

Court, but he cannot take his seat in the Council as long as he remains a Customary Court judge. However, a traditional member who is appointed by name rather than by title, and indeed also an elected member of a Council ceases to be a member of a Local Government Council if he is appointed a member of a Customary Court.







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10th March, 6th to 9th April, 1964

## ABBREVIATIONS

Adj. Deb. = Adjournment Debate	Com. = Committee	E.N. = Eastern Nigeria
1R = First Reading		Q = Oral Question
2R = Second Reading		W = Written Question—
3R = Third Reading		at end of Volume.

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