

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 23 January, 2007

1. The House met at 11.10 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 18 January, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcement:**
Visitors:
Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Chamber, Staff of the Lagos State House of Assembly on Attachment Programme to the National Assembly.
4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Order VIII, Rule 4):**
Hon. Halims Agoda recalled that on Wednesday, 30 August, 2006, the House negatived a Motion sponsored by Hon. Abdul Oroh on the death sentence passed by a Singaporean Court on a 19 year old Nigerian Footballer, Master Amara Tochi Iwuchukwu for allegedly being in possession of Heroin. Hon. Agoda claimed that new facts had emerged to support the call for the intervention of the Federal Government and the International Community to save the life of the young Nigerian,

He further claimed that the matter was definite and urgent and prayed the House to debate it; furthermore, he prayed the House to suspend Order VIII, 4 (3) to debate the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be debated and forthwith, put and agreed to.

Hon. Halims Agoda also prayed the House to rescind its earlier decision of 30 August, 2006 on the Motion referred to herein and sought the leave of the House to substitute another Motion on the matter.

Leave granted.
5. **A Nigeria Footballer Sentenced to Death in Singapore:**
The House:

Recalls that a motion on the above subject was brought before it on Wednesday, 30 August, 2006;

Moved by fresh evidence that revealed that the trial of Tochi did not receive adequate legal representation as well as clear evidence of judicial travesty by the trial judges;

Further moved by the increasing demands by Civil Right Organizations across the world, including UN's Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial and Summary Execution, it is wise that the House once more lend its voice on this growing agitation;

Encouraged that UN Charter, Article 55, amongst others supports peaceful and friendly relations among Nations based on universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and

Disturbed that the relevant authorities in Nigeria have not done much to save the life of this innocent Nigerian, in spite of the present regime's stated foreign policy thrust of ensuring that no Nigerian citizen will be treated as a second class citizen any where in the world.

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR to intercede, through the President of Singapore to grant Iwuchukwu Tochi clemency.
- (ii) urge the Federal Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to urgently institute legal action at the International Court of Justice at the Hague with the view to seeking reprieve for Tochi;
- (iii) summon the Minister of Foreign Affairs to appear before the House on Wednesday, 24th to brief this Honourable House on the steps her Ministry has taken to secure justice for Tochi;
- (iv) call on the Singaporean Parliament to impress on their government the total displeasure of the Nigerian government and her people on the ignoble process that led to the alleged conviction of Tochi, and in the spirit of international brotherhood, ensure the non-execution of the death sentence;
- (v) further appeal for a coalition of action among international bodies, UN, Commonwealth of Nations, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Civil Liberty Organization (CLO), Amnesty International and other Civil Right Organizations to save the life of this young Nigerian; and
- (vi) that this Resolution must be served on the President today, 23 January for his attention and immediate action (*Hon. J. H. O. Agoda and 62 others*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new prayer (vii) as follows:

"Mandate the leadership of the House to make a special representation to his Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on this matter" (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Recalls that a motion on the above subject was brought before it on Wednesday, 30 August, 2006;

Moved by fresh evidence that revealed that the trial of Tochi did not receive adequate legal representation as well as clear evidence of judicial travesty by the trial judges;

Further moved by the increasing demands by Civil Right Organizations across the world, including UN's Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial and Summary Execution, it is wise that the House once more lend its voice on this growing agitation;

Encouraged that UN Charter, Article 55, amongst others supports peaceful and friendly relations among Nations based on universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and

Disturbed that the relevant authorities in Nigeria have not done much to save the life of this innocent Nigerian, in spite of the present regime's stated foreign policy thrust of ensuring that no Nigerian citizen will be treated as a second class citizen any where in the world.

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR to intercede, through the President of Singapore to grant Iwuchukwu Tochi clemency.

- (ii) urge the Federal Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to urgently institute legal action at the International Court of Justice at the Hague with the view to seeking reprieve for Tochi;
- (iii) summon the Minister of Foreign Affairs to appear before the House on Wednesday 24th to brief this Honourable House on the steps her Ministry has taken to secure justice for Tochi;
- (iv) call on the Singaporean Parliament to impress on their government the total displeasure of the Nigerian government and her people on the ignoble process that led to the alleged conviction of Tochi, and in the spirit of international brotherhood ensure the non-execution of the death sentence;
- (v) further appeal for a coalition of action among international bodies, UN, Commonwealth of Nations, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Civil Liberty Organization (CLO), Amnesty International and other Civil Right Organizations to save the life of this young Nigerian;
- (vi) that this resolution must be served on the President today 23 January for his attention and immediate action; and
- (vii) mandate the leadership of the House to make a special representation to his Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on this matter **(HR. 67/2007)**.
6. *Executive Session* — **11.45 a.m.**
- Plenary* — **12.51p.m.**
7. **Presentation of Bills:**
- (0) Designation of Certain Professionals as Child Abuse Reporters Bill 2006 (HB. 291) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Local Content (Development and Implementation) Bill, 2006 (HB. 292) — *Read the First Time,*
8. **Admittance to the Chamber:**
- Motion made, "that Order XVI, Rule (9) be suspended to admit the Group Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC), the Managing Director, Pipelines Products Marketing Company (PPMC) and accompanying officials to the Chamber to brief the House, pursuant to House Resolution **(HR. 66/2007)** (Hon. Abdul Ningi).*
- Question put and agreed to.*
- Entry* — **1.15 p.m.**
- Briefing by the Group Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Engr Funsho Kupolokun.*
- Departure* ~ **3.35 p. m.**
- See details of proceedings in the Official Report of Tuesday, 23 January, 2007.*
9. **Approval of Votes and Proceedings**
- Motion made, "That this House do adopt the Votes and Proceedings of this Day, Tuesday, 23 January, 2007" (Hon. Abdul Ningi).*
- Question put and agreed to.*
10. **Adjournment:** •
- Audit being 3.37 p.m. the House adjourned till Wednesday, 24 January, 2007 at 2.00 p.m.*