



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 18 January, 2007

1. The House met at 11:15 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 17 January, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted,
3. Announcement:
Inadvertent Omission of the National Copyright Commission from the 2007 Budget Proposal:
Mr Speaker referred to the Message from the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the above subject matter *vide* the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 16 January, 2007 and referred the Message to the Committee on Appropriations for appropriate legislative action.
4. **Petitions:**
Three petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:
 - (i) Hon. Mohammed Abubakar, from Baranko Isaac Machibike, praying the House to intervene in the matter of his dismissal by the Federal Civil Service and to grant the reliefs sought in his petition;
 - (ii) Hon. Ita Enang, from the firm of Olu Ibitoye & Co., on behalf of ASP Fatima Adebayo, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful and compulsory retirement by the Nigeria Police Force and to grant the reliefs sought in his petition;
 - (iii) Hon. Ita Enang, from Effioanwan P. Asuquo, praying the House to investigate the unjust and unfair discrimination against her by the Ministry of Health, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, and to grant the reliefs sought in her petition.
5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance: Order VIII, Rule 4:**
Hon. Aminu Tambuwal drew the attention of the House to the current break down of law and order in Oyo State House of Assembly. According to him, hoodlums had effectively taken over the hallowed Chamber of the House of Assembly. He disclosed that there existed two parallel Houses of Assembly in Oyo State, the one loyal to Chief Adedibu, a chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party and the other, loyal to the Governor of the State, Chief Rasheed Ladoja. He lamented that any form of legislative business was impossible as hoodlums had desecrated the Chamber and barred the two factions access to it.

He referred to a report in the "Tribune" Newspaper edition of 13 January, 2007, titled "*Oyo House where Police and hoodlums cohabit*" and to similar media reports on the subject matter and called on the House to urgently intervene in the confusion, to stem the ugly incidence in Oyo State. He prayed the House to consider the development as one of Urgent Public Importance, and to suspend the relevant rules to debate the matter **forthwith**.

Question that the matter be debated as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) be suspended to enable the House debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

6. Breakdown of Law and Order in Oyo State House of Assembly:
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the current imbroglio in Oyo State House of Assembly with the attendant break down of law and order as reported in various Nigerian dailies;

Further notes the existence of two parallel Houses of Assembly in Oyo State;

Concerned that hoodlums with the connivance of the Nigeria Police had taken over and desecrated the hallowed Chamber of Oyo State House of Assembly;

Worried that the spate of the activities of these hoodlums if not checkmated would give rise to a total collapse of law and order in the State;

Aware that Section 11 (4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria empowers the National Assembly to take over the responsibility of the State House of Assembly by reason of the current situation prevailing in Oyo State House of Assembly;

Resolves:

to constitute a high powered Committee to investigate the on going crisis in Oyo State House of Assembly and report to the House within 7 days.

Debate:

Main Question, put and agreed to.

The House: -

Noted the current imbroglio in Oyo State House of Assembly with the attendant break down of law and order as reported in various Nigerian dailies;

Further noted the existence of two parallel Houses of Assembly in Oyo State;

Concerned that hoodlums with the connivance of the Nigeria Police had taken over and desecrated the hallowed Chamber of Oyo State House of Assembly;

Worried that the spate of the activities of these hoodlums if not checkmated would give rise to a total collapse of law and order in the State;

Aware that Section 11 (4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria empowers the National Assembly to take over the responsibility of the State House of Assembly by reason of the current situation prevailing in Oyo State House of Assembly;

Resolved:

to constitute a high powered Committee to investigate the on-going crisis in Oyo State House of Assembly and report to the House within 7 days (HR. 66/2007).

7. Update on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).
Hon. Hamisu Shira, Chairman, Committee on Electoral Matters recalled that on Thursday, 14 December, 2006, the House passed a Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act, 2006 and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2006, to render illegal the use of the Direct Data Capturing Machine in the on-going registration exercise, and to enable more Nigerians participate in the exercise. He noted that the inability of the Senate to concur in the Bill as passed by the House had lent credence to the continued use of the Direct Data Capturing Machine by the Commission as provided in the Electoral Act.

Reacting to the claim by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in a newspaper report that it had powers to verify, screen and disqualify candidates duly fielded by Political Parties, he addressed a Press Conference and explained that such powers were *ultra vires* the Commission as only the Courts had such powers.

Hon. Shira disclosed that the Commission had procured 34,706 DDC/Lap-Tops for the ongoing registration exercise as against 33,000 DDC Lap-Tops approved in the 2006 Budget, and called on the House to determine the extent of compliance with the Electoral Act, 2006, and the provisions of the 1999 Constitution by the Commission.

Responding, Mr Speaker noted that the issues for determination were:

- (0 the rationale for INEC's purchase of 34,706 Lap-Tops as against 33,000 approved in the 2006 Budget;
- (if) the legality of extending the registration exercise beyond the deadline of 14 December, 2006;
- (iii) the power of the Independent National Electoral Commission to screen, verify and disqualify candidates.

Debate:

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the House Leadership to liaise with its Senate counterpart on the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2006 as passed by the **House**;
- (ii) further mandate the Special Committee on INEC to examine the extent of compliance with the Electoral Act, 2006 and the Constitution by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and to report to the House on Tuesday, 23 January, 2007.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Customs and Excise Tariff, etc. (Consolidation) Act, 1990 and for Connected Purposes, 2006 (HB. 268) — Second Reading.**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Customs and Excise Tariff, etc. (Consolidation) Act, 1990 and for Connected Purposes, 2006 be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time, put and agreed to. Bill

read a Second Time and referred to Committee of the Whole.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Customs and Management Act, 1990, etc. (Consolidation) Act, 1990 and for Purposes Connected Therewith, 2006 (HB. 269) — Second Reading.**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Customs and Management Act, 1990, etc. (Consolidation) Act, 1990 and for Purposes Connected Therewith, 2006 be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to Committee of the Whole.

10. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 23 January, 2007 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.25 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker