



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 16 January, 2007

1. The House met at 10:56 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Address by the Honourable Speaker:**

My Dear Honourable Colleagues.

I most heartily welcome you from your well-deserved Christmas/Sallah/New Year Holidays. I believe that the holiday served as a soothing balm after the conflicts and hostilities that characterized the last Primary Elections.

I must place on record that this House has performed credibly well in the discharge of his constitutional duties since its inception in June 2003. I am indeed mindful of the challenges the House has continually faced as a Legislative body. I am grateful to God for the wisdom and capacity He has granted us to surmount these challenges. History will bear this House out that it's has contributed immensely to the social, political and economic development of this country. Our efforts as a Legislative body have also gone a long way to ensure peace, order and good government. I commend you all.

As you are aware, this is the last - lap of our legislative term ending May 29, 2007. And this is the "magic" year 2007 when we are going to hold Presidential, Gubernatorial and National and State Assembly elections. This imposes on us serious legislative responsibilities. We have a duty to be vigilant so that any possible hitch requiring legislative intervention may be promptly addressed. Africa and indeed the world waits on Nigeria. Permit me on your behalf to commend the electoral body, on the steps taken on the electoral process thus far, and charge them to abide by the provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Act in all her actions.

It will delight you to know that from June 3, 2003 when this House was inaugurated till December 20, 2006 when we adjourned to this day the status of Bills and measures stand thus:

<i>No. of Bills introduced</i>	<i>299</i>
<i>No. of Bills passed</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>No. of Motions received and considered</i>	<i>161</i>
<i>No. of Petitions received and considered</i>	<i>224</i>

Of the Bills and measures, some were negatived, withdrawn or otherwise stood down. We intend, as God gives us the Grace to complete the consideration of all these Bills before the end of our term.

Dear Colleagues, I remind you again that this is 2007. In all our actions let us put the interest of our nation first. I wish you a very rewarding legislative year.

3. Messages:
Mr Speaker read the following Messages from the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria:

(i)

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



PRES/134

29 November 2006

*The Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three-Arms Zone, Abuja.*

Dear Hon. Speaker,

**2007 STATUTORY BUDGET OF THE FEDERAL
CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Pursuant to Section 299 of the Constitution of the Federation, 1999, I forward herewith the FCT Statutory Allocation Budget for Year 2007 for consideration by the House of Representatives.

While urging you to accept the assurances of my highest esteem, it will be most appreciated if the Budget is given urgent consideration by the House.

*Yours Sincerely
(Signed) OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO*



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

December 14, 2006

*The Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja,*

Dear Hon. Speaker,

**INADVERTENT OMISSION OF THE NATIONAL COPYRIGHT
COMMISSION FROM THE 2007 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

The purpose of this letter is to transmit to the House of Representatives, the attached budget proposal of the National Copyright Commission (Commission), an agency of Ministry of Justice, which was inadvertently omitted from the 2007 budget proposal which I presented to the Joint Sitting of the National Assembly on 13 October, 2006.

In transmitting the budget proposal of the Commission, which amounts to a total of N204 million, I am mindful of the need to stay within the confines of the aggregate expenditure in the 2007 budget proposal.

Accordingly, to compensate for the N204 million required to fund the budget proposal of the Commission, I propose the following reductions in the under-listed Service- Wide Votes:

Vote	Original Proposal	Proposed Reduction	Revised Proposal
<i>Public Service Wage Adjustment</i>	8,000,000.000	142,600,000	7,857,400,000
<i>Margin for Increase Costs</i>	5,000,000,000	41,400,000	4,958,600,000
<i>Adjustment to Capital Cost</i>	2,000,000,000	20,000,000	1,980,000,000
Total	15,000,000,000	204,000,000	14,796,000,000

I crave your kind indulgence for the consideration of the Commission's budget proposal which is transmitted herewith and the consequential amendments to the Service-Wide Votes specified above, along with 2007 budget proposal presently before you.

Kindly accept, Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Yours Sincerely
(Signed)*

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

(iii)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134

December 21, 2006

*The Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three-Arms Zone, Asokoro -
Abuja.*

Dear Hon. Speaker,

**PRESENTATION OF EKITI STATE YEAR
2007 APPROPRIATION BILL**

I hereby present, for formal consideration and passage into law by the House, the attached Draft 2007 Appropriation Bill of Ekiti State.

I hope the Bill will receive prompt attention of the Honourable Members of the House.

*Yours Sincerely
(Signed)*

OLVSEGUN OBASANJO



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134

December 21, 2006

*The Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three-Arms Zone, Asokoro -
Abuja.*

Dear Hon. Speaker,

**PRESENTATION OF EKITI STATE 2006 SUPPLEMENTARY
APPROPRIATION BILL**

I hereby present, for formal consideration and passage into law by the House of Representatives, the attached 2006 Supplementary Appropriation Bill of Ekiti State.

I hope the Bill will receive prompt attention of Honourable Members of the House.

Yours Sincerely
(Signed) **OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO**

(v)
**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**



PRES/134

January 10, 2007

*Hon. (Alhaji) Aminu Bello Masari,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex, Three
Arms Zone, Abuja.*

Dear Hon. Speaker,

REPORT ON CENSUS 2006 PROVISIONAL RESULTS

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, mandates the National Population Commission (NPC) to carry out a population census in the country and provide accurate and reliable census results. The primary objective of the census results is to assist the country in knowing as accurately and reliably as is possible, the population size, its composition and distribution. The results help the country in planning for the improvement of the quality of life of Nigerians.

In this connection, a National Population Census was conducted by the National Population Commission from 21st to 27th March 2006 followed by a Post-Enumeration survey from 18th to 26th June 2006.

To ensure that the entire country was covered during the census operations, the Commission carried out the enumeration area demarcation exercise to cover all settlements, however small and remote. A massive public awareness campaign was launched throughout the country and every effort was made to ensure the integrity and credibility of the 2006 census results including adherence to transparency which allowed for national and international monitoring of the processes and the methodologies used.

In line with Section 213(1) of the 1999 Constitution which provides that any report of the National Population Commission containing the population census after every census shall be delivered to the President by the Chairman of the Commission, the Chairman of the National Population Commission at an Extra-ordinary meeting of the Federal Executive Council held on Friday, 29th December 2006, presented to me the Report on Census 2006 Provisional Results.

Also in compliance with the provision of Section 213(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which states that the President shall within a period of thirty (30) days after receipt of the report lay copies of the report before the Council of State, I accordingly laid the report before the Council of State at its meeting of Tuesday, 9th January 2007, which advised me to accept the report on census 2006 results.

/ have the pleasure to accept the report and accordingly, in line with the provision of Section 213(3) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I hereby forward the Report on Census 2006 Provisional Results to you for it to be laid on the Table of the House of Representatives.

Yours Sincerely
(Signed) OLVSEGUN
OBASANJO

4. Announcements:

(i) Obituaries:

Mr Speaker announced with deep regret, the death of:

(a) Senator Usman Sani Sami, (*Kebbi South Senatorial District*), Kebbi State, on 6 January, 2007.

(b) Senator Andrew Ogbonnaya Nwankwo (*Ebonyi State*), on 19 December, 2006.

(c) Rt. Honourable, Alh. Usman Alhassan Jikantoro, Speaker, Niger State House of Assembly, on 24 December, 2006.

A minute in silence was observed in their honour.

(ii) Defection:

Mr Speaker further announced the defection of Hon. George Ibezimako Ozodinobi, from the All Peoples Grand Alliance (APGA) to the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP).

5. Petition:

A petition was received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

Hon. Alex Nwofe, from Liberty Chambers, on behalf of Mr. Onyekwelu Chima, praying the House to investigate the unlawful requisition of his property by the Nigeria Army and the Nigeria Air-Force, and to grant the reliefs sought in the petition.

6. A Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of N242,118,318,949.00 (Two Hundred and Forty-Two Billion, One Hundred and Eighteen Million, Three Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine Naira) for the full and final liquidation of principal and interest on the Par Bonds and Partial Retirement of Oil Warrants Amounting to US\$1,886,849,343. (One Billion, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Six Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Three Dollars) being part of the total stock of debt of US\$2,437,849,343. (Two Billion, Four Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Three Dollars) owed to the London Club of Creditors — Third Reading.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That A Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of N242,118,318,949.00 (Two Hundred and Forty-Two Billion, One Hundred and Eighteen Million, Three Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine Naira) for the full and final liquidation of principal and interest on the Par Bonds and Partial Retirement of Oil Warrants Amounting to US\$1,886,849,343. (One Billion, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Six Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Three Dollars) being part of the total stock of debt of US\$2,437,849,343. (Two Billion, Four Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Three Dollars) owed to the London Club of Creditors be now read the Third Time — (Hon. Abdul Ningi).

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

Bill read the Third Time and Passed.

7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Water Resources Institute Act, Cap. N83 LFN to Reconstitute the Board of the Institute to Include Technocrats and Other Experts to Enhance its Efficiency, Expand and Make More Explicit the Extent of its Functions, and Provide for Other Matters Ancillary Thereto, 2006 (HB.278) — Second Reading.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Water Resources Institute Act, Cap. N83 LFN to Reconstitute the Board of the Institute to Include Technocrats and Other Experts to Enhance its Efficiency, Expand and Make More Explicit the Extent of its Functions, and Provide for Other Matters Ancillary Thereto, 2006 be now read a Second Time" — (Hon. Hallims Agoda).

Debate:

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Water Resources.

8. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Investments and Securities Act, 1999 and to Establish the Securities and Exchange Commission as the Apex Regulatory Authority for the Nigerian Capital Market and Reduction of Systemic Risk and for Related Matters, 2006 (HB. 273) — Second Reading.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Investments and Securities Act, 1999 and to Establish the Securities and Exchange Commission as the Apex Regulatory Authority for the Nigerian Capital Market and Reduction of Systemic Risk and for Related Matters, 2006 be now read a Second Time" — (Hon. Ahmed Wadada).

Debate:

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Capital Market.

9. Consideration of Report:

Joint Committee on National Security and Intelligence and Foreign Affairs:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Joint Committee on National Security and Intelligence and Foreign Affairs on the Review of the United States National Intelligence Council titled "Mapping Sub-Saharan Africa's Future" and approve the Recommendations therein" — {Hon. YusufDikko}.

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Report and approve the Recommendations therein — Agreed to,

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendations:

- (0)** This and incoming administrations must do something unprecedented in tackling the eradication of poverty and unemployment through an appropriate and revised poverty eradication scheme that will provide micro-finance and direct micro-credit to agriculture, trade and most especially women;
- (ii)** Improve the capacity and resources, including training, to raise the skill and professionalism of security operatives;
- (iii)** Raise the level of development by making sure resources allocated to delivery of public services are not diverted value for money. Good governance is the best answer to restiveness and instability. The National Assembly must ensure that adequate resources are allocated to capital projects to improve infrastructure and, through its oversight functions, ensure a greater implementation of these allocations;
- (iv)** All elections, especially the 2007 elections must not only be credible, they must be seen to be credible in Nigeria. Elections provide the avenue for breakdown of law and order and efforts must be made to avert such happening. Specifically the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should be directed to instruct Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs) to ensure that the quality and maturity of ad-hoc or temporary election staff is of the highest standards as theses staff are often accused of manipulating elections;
- (v)** Government, both the legislative and executive arms, must demonstrate commitment to the rule of law as violation of the Constitution and contempt for court orders create the environment for breakdown in the social order. The future of our nation hinges on our ability to build and strengthen democratic institutions;
- (vi)** Improve the performance of anti-corruption institutions, considering that corruption diminishes the quality of governance and political stability; there is also every need to ensure that the anti-corruption drive is conducted in accordance with the principles of Rule of Law;

- (vii) Call on all political parties and stakeholders to ensure that there is improvement in the capacity and competence of Legislative Houses at the State level;
- (viii) The issues of environmental degradation and overall development in the Niger Delta should be addressed by making available adequate resources and ensuring the prudent and sound management of these resources; and
- (ix) Address the issues of ethnic and religious conflict, bearing in mind that these conflicts have an economic undertone fed by the pervasive poverty of citizens who fall back on ethnic affiliation or resort to religion as an escape route out of the poverty trap.

Debate;

The House rejected the Report of the Joint Committee and noted that it did not address the issues raised in the Intelligence Report; it recommitted the Report to the Joint Committee to reconsider and report to the House.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the Joint Committee on National Security and Intelligence and Foreign Affairs on the Review of the United States National Intelligence Council titled "Mapping Sub-Saharan Africa's Future" and rejected the Report. It ordered the Joint Committee to reconsider the Intelligence Report with a view to addressing the issues raised therein.

Question, that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Whole on the Report of the Joint Committee on National Security and Intelligence and Foreign Affairs on the Review of the United States National Intelligence Council titled "Mapping Sub-Saharan Africa's Future", put and agreed to.

10. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 17 January, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. (*Hon. Gilbert Nnaji*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:22 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker