



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 13 March, 2007

1. The House met at **11.25 a.m.** Mr Deputy Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 8 March, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcements:**
 - (a) *Defection:*
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the defection of Hon. Samuel **Olufemi** Adeyemi (*Ekiti Central Federal Constituency*) from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to **the** All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP).
 - (b) *Bereavement:*
The Deputy Speaker further announced the death of Apostle Julius Olatunde Ogunbanjo on 10 February, 2007. He was the father of Hon. Anthony Wale Ogunbanjo. Burial arrangements would be communicated to the House soon.

Hon Osita Izunaso rendered prayers for the repose of the soul of the deceased.
4. **Petition:**
A petition was received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

Hon. Lawal Garba, from 1,200 retired staff of the defunct Bank of the North protesting the non-payment of their salaries and benefits and praying the House to grants the reliefs sought therein.
5. **Presentation of Reports:**
 - (i) *Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development:*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Provide for he Establishment of the National Agricultural Development Fund, 2007 (Hon. Mani Nassarawa),

Question put and agreed to. Report

Laid.
6. **Periodic Report of the Joint Committee on Electoral Matters, Appropriation and Finance on Preparations for the Conduct of the 2007 General Elections:**
Hon. Hamisu Shira, on behalf of the Joint Committee, informed the House that since his last status Report, the Independent National Electoral Commission had intensified its preparations for the 2007 General Elections. Production of permanent Voters' Registration Cards had begun with fears expressed about the possibility of distributing them to all the eligible voters before the April 14 and April **21**, 2007 General Elections. In view

of the short time frame before the General Election • the Joint Committee had suggested the use of Temporary Voters' Registration Cards at all the Voting Centres throughout the Federation. It had also advised the **Commission** to establish Distribution Centres at the six geopolitical Zones in the country for effective distribution of election materials. Furthermore, the Joint Committee would meet with both the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Accountant-General of the Federation to establish with proofs, the release of funds to the **Commission** despite the Commission's assurances that it had no problems in that regard. Commenting on the alleged plan to postpone the General Elections, he referred to his recent status Report and reiterated the position of the Attorney-General of the Federation that the latter was misquoted. He further assured that the Commission would publish the list of persons qualified to contest the 2007 General Elections before the end of the week.

Concluding, Hon. Shira urged all the political parties, politicians and other stakeholders to exercise restraint in their activities and utterances in order not to derail the current political transition process.

Debate:

Mr Deputy Speaker remarked that the Report had sufficiently demonstrated that preparations for the April 2007 General Elections by the Commission were on course. He commended the Joint Committee for its continued efforts in monitoring preparations for the General Elections and ordered the Joint Committee to report again next week especially on the issue of disqualification of candidates.

7. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 14 March, 2007 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Bawa Bwari*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.50 p.m.

Austin Opara
Deputy Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 8 March, 2007:

On page 811, item 3, paragraph (i). *Leave out* the names "Hon. Wuyep Longhor" and **insert** the names "Hon. Musa Wuyep" instead thereof.