



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 1 March, 2007

1. The House met at 10.22 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, 28 February, 2007.

By unanimous consent the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**

(i) **Ghana's 50th Independence Anniversary:**

Mr Speaker informed the House that he had been invited by the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana to attend that country's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebrations on Tuesday, 6 March, 2007.

(ii) **Turbaning:**

Mr Speaker conveyed an invitation by Hon. Yakubu Umaru Barde and Hon. Sa'adatu Sani to Hon. Members to the turbaning and elevation ceremonies of the Chief of Gbagyi as a Second Class Traditional Ruler scheduled for Tuesday, 6 March to Friday, 9 March, 2007 in Kaduna.

4. **Petition:**

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

Hon. Abubakar Momoh, from F. J. Folo Tunsha and Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of the staff of the Security Unit, Federal Polytechnic, Auchi, Edo State, praying the "House, to-intervene" in the wrongful and unlawful termination of their appointments by the Management of the Institution and to grant the reliefs sought in their petition. —

5. **Presentation of Bill:**

Federal Medical Centres (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2006 — *Read the First Time.*

6. **Presentation of Report:**

Committee on Commerce:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Management of Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2007 (Hon. S. M. Dikko).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid,

7 On-Going Retrenchment of Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police Force: -

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes, the ongoing retrenchment of Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police Force;

Aware, that the current exercise cuts across various ranks in the Force;

Worried,-that the development would compound the prevailing hardships in the society and increase the spate of armed banditry in the country;

Conscious, of the role of the Nigeria Police Force to maintain law and order during the forthcoming general elections and the negative implications of a further reduction of the current strength of the Police Force;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the on-going retrenchment exercise in the Nigeria Police Force under the guise of Reforms rather than increase its staff strength at such a critical period in the life of the nation;
- (ii) call on the Inspector-General of Police to suspend the action;
- (iii) mandate the House Committee on Police Affairs to investigate the matter and report to the House (*Hon. Abubakar Momoh and two Others*).

- *Debate:*

Amendment proposed: -

Leave out prayers (i), (ii) and (iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"constitute a seven-Member Special Committee to interface with the Inspector-General of Police on the=subject matter between Monday, 5 March and Tuesday, 6 March, 2007 and report to the House on Wednesday, 7 March, 2007(*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Question that amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

The House: .

Noted, the ongoing retrenchment of Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police Force; —

Aware, that the current exercise cuts across various ranks in the Force;

Worried, that the development would compound the prevailing hardships in the society and increase the spate of armed banditry in the country; -

Conscious, of the role of the Nigeria Police Force to -maintain law and order during the forthcoming general elections and the negative implications of a further reduction of_the current strength of the Police Force;

- ... *Resolved to:*

constitute a seven-Member Special Committee to interface with the Jnspector-General of Police on the subject matter between Monday, 5 March and Tuesday, 6 March, 2007 and report to the House on Wednesday, 7 March, 2007 (HR. 69/2007).

8. Golden Jubilee of Ghana's Independence:
The House --

Notes that on Tuesday, 6 March, 2007, the Republic of Ghana would mark its 50th Independence Anniversary;

'Further notes the historical significance of Ghana's Independence in 1957 to the people of that country and -erstwhile British colonies in Africa including Nigeria;

Delighted that Ghana's Independence was a crystallizing factor for the independence and emancipation of other African countries from colonial bondage and servitude; —

Recognizes the strong bond of brotherliness and friendship between Ghana and Nigeria and as a sign of respect and reverence for the enormous sacrifices by the heroes of the struggle for the independence of African countries e.g., Dr Kwameh Nkurumah Sir Ahamadu Bello, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Gamal Naser,

Resolves to:

(i) recognize with pride the foresight and sacrifices made by those who fought for the independence of Africa; —

(ii) call on African Nations to begin the next phase of the struggle against neo-colonial interest by emancipating their countries from economic strangulation, backwardness, poverty and underdevelopment;

(iii) --- congratulate the Government and people of Ghana on their country's attainment of 50 years as an Independent-nation. 1

Debate:

Main Question put and agreed to.

The House

Noted that on Tuesday, 6 March, 2007, the Republic of Ghana-would mark its 50th Independence Anniversary;

Further noted the historical edifice of Ghana's Independence in 1957 to the people of that country and erstwhile British colonies in Africa including Nigeria;

- *Delighted* that Ghana's Independence was a crystalizing factor for the independence and emancipation of other African countries from colonial bondage and servitude;

Recognized the strong bond of brotherliness and friendship between Ghana and Nigeria and as a sign of respect and reverence for the enormous sacrifices by the heroes of the struggle for the independence of African countries e.g., Dr Kwamieh Nkurumah, Sir Ahamadu Bello, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Gamal Naser, _____

Resolved to: " — '—

(i) recognize with pride the foresight and sacrifices made by those who fought for the independence of Africa; _____

(ii) call on African Nations to begin the next phase of the struggle against neo-colonial interest by emancipating their countries from economic strangulation, backwardness, poverty and underdevelopment;

- -(iii) " congratulate the Government and" people of Ghana on their country's attainment of 50 years as an Independent-nation (HR. 70/2007). _

9. Adoption of Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Information Technology Development Agency and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2007:

Motion made and Question proposed, ~ _____ - _____

... The House: -

Notes that the- Conference Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Information Technology Development Agency and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2007 was laid on Wednesday, 28 February, 2007; _

A clean copy of the Conference Report is ready for adoption;

Resolves, to adopt the Conference Report on the National Information Technology Development Agency 2007 (Hon. Festus A. Adegoke). ____

Question put and agreed to. _ - " ^ _,"

