



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 15 May, 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 Wednesday, 9 May, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted

3. Announcements:
 - (i) *Conference Committees:*
Mr Speaker named Conferees for the following Bills:
 - (a) Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI):
Hon. Cairo Ojoughboh
Hon. Sam Egya
Hon. Ali Atai
Hon. Leo Ogor
Hon. Halims Agoda
Hon. Jumoke Okoya-Thomas.
 - (b) Fringe Benefits for Former Presidents, Heads of State, Heads of Federal Legislative Houses and Chief Justices of the Federation and Ancillary Matters:
Hon. Bawa Bwari — *Chairman*
Hon. Farouk Lawan
Hon. Abdullahi Idris
Hon. Ita Enang
Hon. Ayo Fasehun
Hon. Bethel Amadi
Hon. Alex Nwofe.
 - (Hi) *Visitors:*
Mr Speaker recognised the presence in the Gallery, representatives of:
 - (a) Federal Ministry of Women Affairs;
 - (b) United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF);
 - (c) United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - ENHASE;
 - (d) UNFPA;
 - (e) OSIWA - CIDDOD;
 - (f) National Centre for Women Development.

(iv) *Bereavement:*

Mr Speaker acquainted the House with the death of the Mother of Hon. Francis Amadiogwu {Okigwe South) Federal Constituency, Imo State on the 4 April, 2007 at the age of **81**.

Hon. John Longhor rendered prayers for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

4. Privilege (Order V, Rule 2):

Hon. Haruna Yerima referred to the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 9 May, 2007 and recalled Mr Speaker's promise to investigate the allegation that the Motion on the conduct of the 2007 General Election standing in his name was altered. He noted that the non-inclusion of the Motion in the Days Order Paper was an infraction of his Privilege and prayed the House to debate the Motion forthwith.

Mr Speaker invited the Chairman Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Ita Enang **to** explain the circumstances behind the non-inclusion of the Motion in the Day's Order Paper.

Responding, Hon. Ita Enang, Chairman Committee on Rules and Business disclosed that some of the sponsors did not sign the Motion as required by the House Rules. He further stated that the text of the Motion offended certain provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral **Act**.

Debate:

Ruling, Mr Speaker urged the sponsors of the Motion to meet with House Leadership in order to harmonise the text of the Motion with the extant Laws.

5. Presentation of Reports:(i) *Joint Committee on National Planning and Justice:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Statistics Act, 1957, Establish the National Statistics System, National Bureau of Statistics and for other Matters Connected Therewith, 2001" (Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) *Committee on Internal Affairs:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Internal Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Act, 2003 in order to Enhance its Capacity to provide Protection, Crisis Resolution and Security to Public Infrastructures and Related Matters, 2007" (Hon. E. West Idahosa).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(Hi) *Committee on Internal Affairs:*

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Internal Affairs on a Bill for an Act to make Provisions for the Establishment of a National Identity Database and National Identity Management Commission charged with the Responsibilities **for** Maintenance of the National Database, the Registration of Individuals and the Issuance of General Multipurpose Identity Cards and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006" (Hon. E. West-Idahosa).*

Question put and agreed to.

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Report laid.

6. Sale of African Petroleum (AP) Plc by NNPC.

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes, the crisis of ownership and management plaguing the oil company, African Petroleum Pic, since it was first owned and controlled by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and subsequently, by other business entities;

Further notes, that Sadiq Petroleum-m--P4G-, was the first oil company to acquire 30% shareholding in African Petroleum Plc and by virtue of this acquisition, became a core investor;

Is informed that subsequently, and under controversial circumstances, another company Asset Management Nominee Ltd, involved in the administration of Pension Funds bought over the 30% shareholding of Sadiq Petroleum Plc and became the new core investor;

Takes legislative notice of the intervention of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in the ownership structure of the African Petroleum Corporation following its unilateral acquisition of 13% holding of the Pension Administrator, Assets Management Nominee Ltd which it convened to equity increasing its own holding to 28%;

Also notes, that Asset Management Nominee Ltd was also denied the right of first refusal in the acquisition and reacquisition scheme to enable it retain its 30% holding as a core investor;

Recognizes that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation is a public corporation and its 28 % shareholding in African Petroleum Plc, is held in trust for all Nigerian citizens which shares should be traded openly on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange to avail the general public the opportunity to buy the shares;

Further takes legislative notice that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has failed to trade its 28% shareholding **in** African Petroleum Plc on the Nigerian Stock Exchange and therefore,

Resolves to:

Invite **the Security and Exchange** Commission, the Nigerian Stock Exchange the Bureau of Public Enterprises, and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to explain the shareholding structure in the African Petroleum Plc (*Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Wadada and 5 Others*).

Debate;

Question put and negatived

7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Agency (Establishment, etc.) 2007 — Second Reading:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Agency (Establishment, etc.) 2007 be now read a Second Time (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Debate:

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

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

8. Consideration of Reports:

Joint Committee on Women Affairs and Justice:

-Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Joint Committee **on** Women Affairs and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Enforcement of the United Nations Conventions on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and for Purposes Connected Therewith, 2007 and approve the Recommendations therein" (*Hon Saudatu Sant*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Report, put and agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH

WHEREAS the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was adopted by Member states of the United Nations;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has duly signed and ratified the said Convention on 23rd April, 1984 and 13th June, 1985 respectively and Nigeria is desirous of giving effect to the said Convention;

AND WHEREAS section 12 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 provides that no treaty shall have the force of law except to the extent that such treaty has been enacted into law by the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary and expedient to make legislative provision for the enforcement in Nigeria of the said Convention by way of an Act of the National Assembly: -

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows: -

Clause 1:

As from the commencement of this Act, the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as set out in the Schedule to this Act shall, subject as thereunder provided, have the force of law in Nigeria, be given full recognition and effect and be applied by all authorities and persons exercising Legislative, Executive and Judicial powers in Nigeria {*Hon. Abdul Ningi*} ~ *Agreed to*.

Question that Clause 1 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

Clause 2: Citation.

This Act may be cited as the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Enforcement) Bill, 2007 (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that Clause 2 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

SCHEDULE

TEXT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

PREAMBLE

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Noting that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,

Noting that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex,

Noting that the States Parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights have the obligation to ensure the equal rights of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

Considering the international conventions concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women,

Noting also the resolutions, declarations and recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women,

Concerned, however, that despite these various instruments extensive discrimination against women continues to exist,

Recalling that discrimination against women violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity,

Concerned that in situations of poverty women have the least access to food, health, education, training and - opportunities for employment and other needs,

Convinced that the establishment of the new international economic order based on equity and justice will contribute significantly towards the promotion of equality between men and women,

Emphasizing that the eradication of apartheid, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and interference in the internal affairs of States is essential to the full enjoyment of the rights of men and women,

Affirming that the strengthening of international peace and security, the relaxation of international tension, mutual co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control, the affirmation of the principles of justice, equality and mutual benefit in relations among countries and the realization of the right of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and independence, as well as respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, will promote social progress and development and as a consequence will contribute to the attainment of full equality between men and women,

Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields,

Bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, so far not fully recognized, the social significance of maternity and the role of both parents in the family and in the upbringing of children, and aware that the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a sharing of responsibility between men and women and society as a whole, —————

Aware that a change in the traditional role of men as well as the role of women in society and in the family is needed to achieve full equality between men and women,

Determined to implement the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against - Women and, for that purpose, to adopt the measures required for the elimination of such discrimination in all.. its forms and manifestations, (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to.*

Question that the provisions of the Preamble stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

Have agreed on the following:

PART I ARTICLE I — DEFINITION

OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

For the purposes of the present Convention, the term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to.*

Question that the provision of Article 1 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 2 — OBLIGATION TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION

States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake:

- (a) To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;
- (b) To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women;

- (c) To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination;
- (d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation;
- (e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;
- (j) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women;
- (g) To repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 2 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 3 — MEASURES FOR ENSURING THE FULL ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 3 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 4 — SPECIAL MEASURES TO ACCELERATE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

1. Adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination as defined in the present Convention, but shall in no way entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved.
2. Adoption by States Parties of special measures, including those measures contained in the present Convention, aimed at protecting maternity shall not be considered discriminatory (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 4 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 5 — GENDER ROLES AND STEREOTYPE

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures:

- (a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;
- (b) To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 5 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 6 — TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND EXPLOITATION FOR PROSTITUTION

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 6 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

PART II ARTICLE 7 — WOMEN IN POLITICAL AND

PUBLIC LIFE

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

- (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;
- (b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;
- (c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 7 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 8 — REPRESENTATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 8 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 9 — WOMEN AND NATIONALITY

- 1. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband.
- 2. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 9 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

PART III ARTICLE 10 —

EDUCATION

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:

- (a) The same conditions for career and vocational guidance, for access to studies and for the achievement of diplomas in educational establishments of all categories in rural as well as in urban areas; this equality shall be ensured in pre-school, general, technical, professional and higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training;
- (b) Access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality;
- (c) The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education by encouraging coeducation and other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programmes and the adaptation of teaching methods;
- (d) The same opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;
- (e) The same opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes, particularly those aimed at reducing, at the earliest possible time, any gap in education existing between men and women;

- (f) The reduction of female student drop-out rates and the organization of programmes for girls and women who have left school prematurely;
- (g) The same Opportunities to participate actively in sports and physical education;
- (h) Access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 10 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 11 — EMPLOYMENT

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:
 - (a) The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings;
 - (b) The right to the same employment opportunities, including the application of the same criteria for selection in matters of employment;
 - (c) The right to free choice of profession and employment, the right to promotion, job security and all benefits and conditions of service and the right to receive vocational training and retraining, including apprenticeships, advanced vocational training and recurrent training;
 - (d) The right to equal remuneration, including benefits, and to equal treatment in respect of work of equal value, as well as equality of treatment in the evaluation of the quality of work;
 - (e) The right to social security, particularly in cases of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age and other incapacity to work, as well as the right to paid leave;
 - (j) The right to protection of health and to safety in working conditions, including the safeguarding of the function of reproduction.
2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:
 - (a) To prohibit, subject to the imposition of sanctions, dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave and discrimination in dismissals on the basis of marital status;
 - (b) To introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances;
 - (c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life, in particular through promoting the establishment and development of a network of child-care facilities;
 - (d) To provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them.
3. Protective legislation relating to matters covered in this article shall be reviewed periodically in the light of scientific and technological knowledge and shall be revised, repealed or extended as necessary (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to*.

Question that the provision of Article 11 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 12 — EQUALITY IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph I of this article, States Parties shall ensure to women appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to.*

Question that the provision of Article 12 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 13 — SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:

- (a) The right to family benefits;
- (b) The right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit;
- (c) The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to.*

Question that the provision of Article 13 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 14 — WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:
 - (a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;
 - (b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counseling and services in family planning;
 - (c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;
 - (d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;
 - (e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self employment;
 - if) To participate in all community activities;
 - (g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;
 - (h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*) — *Agreed to.*

Question that the provision of Article 14 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

PART IV

ARTICLE 15 — EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

1. States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.

2. States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to ..conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them.equally in all stages.of procedure _____ in courts and tribunals.
3. States Parties agree that all contracts and all other private instruments of any kind with a legal effect which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void.
4. States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile (*Hon. Abdul Ningf*) — *Agreed to.*

Question that the provision of Article 15 stand part of the Treaty, put and agreed to.

ARTICLE 16 — EQUALITY IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY RELATIONS

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:
 - (a) The same right to enter into marriage;
 - (b) The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;
 - (c) The same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution;
 - (d) The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters _____ relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
 - (e) The same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights;
 - (f) The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship_ and ____ adoption of children, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
 - . (g) - The same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, -a profession and an occupation;
 - (h) The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration.
2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

In Article 16 (2), immediately after the word "compulsory", *insert* the words "subject to the application of domestic, socio-cultural and legal system of the country" (*Hon. Saudatu Sani*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Further Debate:

Debate adjourned to allow for further consultations.

Chairman to report progress.

(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 Women Affairs and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Enforcement of the United Nations Conventions on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and for Purposes Connected Therewith, 2007 and approved Clauses 1 **and** 2, approved the Preamble to the Enactment, Articles 1 - 15 and deferred further consideration of the Report to allow for further consultations.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Whole, put and agreed to.

9. **Special Ad-Hoc Committee On-going Retrenchment Exercise of Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police:** *Motion made and question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Special Ad-Hoc Committee on the On-going Retrenchment Exercise of Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police and the circumstances surrounding the exercise and approve the Recommendations therein" (Hon. Abubakar Bawa Bwari).*

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Report, put and agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE) "

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL AD - Hoc COMMITTEE ON THE ON-GOING RETRENCHMENT

**EXERCISE OF OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE NIGERIA POLICE AND THE
CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE EXERCISE****Recommendation:**

Considering the fact that the Inspector-General of Police did not have the powers to carry out the rationalisation of these officers without recourse to the Police Service Commission and having not complied with due process, the Committee recommends that the exercise should be reviewed, revisited and reversed (*Hon. Abubakar-Bawa-Bwari*) — *Agreed to.* — "

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 Special Ad-Hoc Committee on the On-going Retrenchment Exercise of Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police and the circumstances surrounding the exercise and approved the Recommendation therein"

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Whole, put and agreed to.

10. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 16 May, 2007 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.17 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker