



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

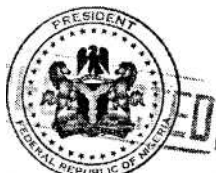
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 3 July, 2007

1. The House met at 10.10 a.m. Madam Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Madam Speaker announced that she had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28 June, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Message:**
Madam Speaker read a Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:



PRESIDENT, FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134 .

; June 27, 2001

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

Abuja.

My dear Madam Speaker,

RE: 1. NIGERIAN AGENCY FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE (NAFFA) ACT, 2007 2.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET AND RESEARCH OFFICE ACT, 2007

/ write with reference to above subject, forwarded to me as Bills requiring my assent. Having studied the two important Bills, I wish to raise the following observations for consideration by the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives.

- A. **NIGERIAN AGENCY FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE (NAFFA) ACT. 2007**
 - i. Sections 2: Composition of the Governing Board and Mode of Operation. Clearly some of the institutions charged with the responsibility of making recommendation for appointments and forming part of the Board no longer exist, so there may be a lacuna.

- ii. *Sections 15(1) and (2); Expenditure of the Agency: As provided, this would appear to put additional mechanism that may likely slow down the operations of the Agency. Rendering of accounts through auditing and remittance of audited accounts as captured by Sections 16 & 17 will, in my humble view, suffice in terms of checks and balances.*

Hi. Section 21 (3): Restriction on execution against property of the Agency: This would seem to contravene the provisions of Sections 6 (6) (b) and Sections 26 (i) of the CFRN 1999 on judicial powers over the citizens.

B. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET AND RESEARCH OFFICE ACT, 2007

- i. *The import of Sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18 and 21 appear to have either usurped the functions of the various House Committees or would appear to duplicate same. Similarly, Sections 1 (1), 8 (2) 2 (1) (i) 12 (2) and 13 (2) also require reconstruction so as to align them with the perceived intent of the enactment.*

I, therefore, urge the Honourable Members to take a second look at these Sections with a view to amending same for further action.

As you reconsider these provisions and the Bills, accept Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest esteem and best wishes for the entire Honourable Members of the House of Representatives.

Best regards,

*(Signed) UMARU MUSA
YAR'ADUA*

Pursuant to Order XV, Rule 8, Madam Speaker referred the Message to the Special Ad-Hoc Committee on Rules and Business for further Legislative action.

4. Announcement:

Bereavement:

Madam Speaker announced the death of the father of Hon. Farouk Adamu Aliyu, former Member (2003 - 2007) representing (Birnin Kudu/Buji Federal Constituency, Jigawa State).

A minute in silence was observed and the Deputy House Leader, Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie prayed for the repose of the deceased.

5. Closure of Port Harcourt International Airport:

Motion made and Question proposed, The House:

Notes, that the Port Harcourt International Airport was closed to air traffic in August 2006 for the purpose of maintenance work on the Airport facilities for effective/safe air services;

Further notes, that although contract was awarded for the maintenance services by the Federal Government to Julius Berger Nigeria Pic, the execution of the maintenance work has been at a snail speed;

Regrets, that residents of Rivers, Bayelsa, and other adjoining States and indeed other passengers have suffered serious hardship in the use of alternative means of transportation or nearby Airports;

Concerned, about the revenue loss to the Rivers State Government as a result of this closure and the attendant increase in the number of unemployed Youths whose jobs are anchored on the airport operation;

Worried, by the delay in the completion of maintenance work and the restoration of normal flight operation at the airport;

Resolves to:

invite the Minister, Federal Ministry of Transportation to appear before the Committee on Aviation when it is inaugurated to explain the reasons for the delay or non-completion of the maintenance work (Hon. George Ford Nwosu)..

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in the prayer and insert the following instead thereof: "set up an *Ad-Hoc* Committee to investigate the causes of the delay in completing the repairs of the Port Harcourt International Airport" (*Hon. George Ford Nwosu*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to; ■

Main question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted, that the Port Harcourt International Airport was closed to air traffic in August 2006 for the purpose of maintenance work on the Airport facilities for effective I safe air services;

Further noted, that although contract was awarded for the maintenance services by the Federal Government to Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, the execution of the maintenance work has been at a snail speed;

Regretted, that residents of Rivers, Bayelsa, and other adjoining States and indeed other passengers have suffered serious hardship in the use of alternative means of transportation or nearby Airports;

Concerned, about the revenue loss to the Rivers State Government as a result of this closure and the attendant increase in the number of unemployed Youths whose jobs are anchored on the airport operations;

Worried, by the delay in the completion of maintenance work and the restoration of normal flight operations at the airport;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-Hoc* Committee to investigate the causes of the delay in completing the repairs of the Port Harcourt International Airport" (*HR. 03/2007*).

6. Membership of the *Ad-Hoc* Committee on the Port Harcourt International Airport Project:
Madam Speaker announced the composition of the *Ad-Hoc* Committee on the Port Harcourt International Airport Project as follows:
- | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| Hon. Tony Madwatte | — | Chairman |
| Hon. BalaBanye | | |
| Hon. George Daika | | |
| Hon. Abiodun Adeogun | | |
| Hon. Ubale Jakada | | : |
| Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo. | | |
| Hon. A. A. Gwalabe | | |

Ad - Hoc Committee ordered to report back to the House within 2 weeks.

7. The Deplorable State of Benin-Ore-Lagos Highway;
Motion made and Question proposed,
The House:

Notes, that it is the Constitutional and Statutory responsibility of the Federal Government to construct, rehabilitate and maintain the Federal roads;

Aware, of the strategic importance of Benin-Ore-Lagos Highway in boosting the economic and social activities within the southern, eastern, south-western and a gateway to the northern part of the country,

Disturbed, that Nigerians who travel on this road are subjected to untold hardship, incessant accidents and danger;

Concerned, that armed bandits are daily taking advantage of the poor state of the road to perpetrate heinous crimes causing the untimely death of their victims;

Worried, that the continuous condonement of the dilapidation and deplorable condition of Benin-Ore-Lagos Highway will cause greater hardship to motorists and impact negatively on the nation's economy;

Resolved to:

- (i) request the President, to as a matter of urgent national importance, direct the Federal Ministry of Transportation to immediately commence the rehabilitation work on the Benin-Ore-Lagos Highway.
- (//) urge the Federal Road Safety Commission and the Nigeria Police to increase their presence and surveillance on this highway to enable them render assistance to accident victims and other road users and ensure the observance of traffic regulations (**HR. 04/2007**).

Ad-Hoc Committee on Rules and Business ordered to monitor the compliance of the Executive, pending the composition of the Committee on Legislative Compliance.

8. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 4 July, 2007 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogu*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.55 p.m.

Patricia Olubunmi Etteh
Speaker

ADDENDUM TO THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THURSDAY, 28 JUNE, 2007

**REPORT OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE
STANDING ORDERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Jurisdiction of the Newly Created Committees

1. Committee on Inter and Intra-Party Relations:

- (1) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Inter and Intra-Party Relations consisting of not more than twenty (20) Members appointed at the commencement of the life of the House.
- (2) The Committee's Jurisdiction shall include:
 - (a) to, in liaison with the Leader of the House, co ordinate relationship between the House Leadership and the caucus of Political Parties represented in the House;
 - (b) to coordinate the relationship between the House, Political Parties and their Leadership;
 - (c) annual budget estimates.

2. Committee on Legislative Compliance:

- (1) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Legislative Compliance consisting of not more than twenty (20) Members appointed at the commencement of the life of the House.
- (2) The Committee's Jurisdiction shall include:
 - (a) ensure the implementation of all House Resolutions on Motions, Petitions and other decisions of the House;
 - (b) ensure that all House Delegations to Parliamentary Conferences, Trainings, Seminars and Capacity building are attended;
 - (c) follow up and receive the report of all House Delegations to Local and International Parliamentary Conferences, Seminars and cause the communique, decisions and agreements to be presented to, and acted upon by the House;
 - (d) annual budget estimate.