



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 23 October, 2007

1. The House met at 10.42 a.m. Madam Speaker read Prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
Madam Speaker announced that she had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 16 October and Wednesday, 17 October, 2007, respectively.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. Messages:
Madam Speaker read the following Messages from the President, Commander-in-Chief, Federal Republic of Nigeria;
(i)

PRES/134

October 16, 2007

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



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Excellency and dear Sister,

RE: 2008 BUDGET

As a result of the major re-appraisal which we have initiated with regards to the 2008 Budget, it has become necessary to crave your kind indulgence to postpone the formal presentation of the Budget to the Joint Session of the National Assembly on Thursday, October } 8th, 2007, as earlier requested.

I therefore would wish that you, on behalf of the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, do kindly accede to our request to formally address the Joint Session on Budget 2008 at 12.00 noon on Thursday, November 8th, 2007.

Please accept, Dear Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours most sincerely,

(Signed) UMARU MUSA

YAR'ADUA

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PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/¥34

October 16. 2007

*The Ron Speaker, Bouse of
Representatives, National
Assembly Complex, Three-Arms
Zone, Abuja.*

Excellency and dear Sister,

RE: STATUS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX
PHASE III PART II

The stoppage of work on the construction of Phase III, Part II of the National Assembly Complex has been brought to my knowledge.

I am informed that this situation has arisen as a result of a directive by the Management of the National Assembly to the contractors to suspend further construction work to make room for the adaptation of new drawings submitted by the officials for the project.

The stoppage of work at this time has serious cost and disruptive implications for the completion of this project. In order for the project not to suffer undue delay, it will be appreciated if you will be kind enough to look into this matter, please.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours most sincerely,

(Signed) UMARU MUSA

YAR'ADUA

4. Petitions:

The following petitions were received and referred to The Committee on Public Petitions:

- (i) Hon. Darlington Okereke, from Okechukwu Egwu on behalf of Three Hundred Police Officers against die Nigeria Police Force, praying die House to investigate the non-compliance of Court Orders and grant other reliefs sought therein;
- (ii) Hon. Dino Melaye, from Albert Adeferai, praying the House to investigate his mistreatment by Mr Bayo Hambolu and the Consulate of Federal Republic of Nigeria, Atlanta Georgia Division and grant the reliefs sought therein.

5. **Valedictory Session in honour of Late Hon. Aminu Shuaibu Safana:**

Madam Speaker addressed the House as follows:

*Honourable Colleagues, I address you today with a heavy heart following the unfortunate death of our dear colleague, **Hon. (Dr) Aminu Shuaibu Safana**, which sad event occurred last Wednesday, 17th October, 2007.*

*A personality of sublime pedigree and towering achievements, the late **Hon. (Dr) Safana** was a rare epitome of Simplicity, humility and altruism. A truly **detribalized** Nigerian, the late **Hon. (Dr) Safana** was a dedicated and patriotic Member who brought maturity to the House. He was a bridge-builder and his contributions to debates were well-informed and loaded with wisdom and foresight.*

*As **Chairman** of the House Committee on Health, Hon. (Dr) Safana was a square peg in a square hole, as it were. His relentless campaign against HIV/AIDS underscored his deep concern for the pandemic. In collaboration with other first-line stakeholders, it is on record that the late **Hon. (Dr) Safana** initiated the first HIV/AIDS conference in Nigeria. At each and every opportunity, he has expressed his determination to ensure that the health sector-related MDGs are achieved by the target year 2015. Before his death, Hon. (Dr) Safana was collaborating with some governmental and non-governmental agencies to see to the passage of the Mother and Child Health **Bill**, for which a **lot** of work had been done preparatory to presenting the Bill to the House.*

the vacuum created by Hon. (Dr) Safana's death can never be filled, and his demise is a monumental loss not only to his good family, nor to the House of Representatives or Katsina State alone, but to Nigeria at large.

*Honourable Members, as we mourn our dearly beloved colleague, this occasion provides a moment for sober reflection. You will recall that in the past two (2) months or thereabout, the House of Representatives has been embroiled **in** a crisis of misrepresentation. This was why we all agreed that an Ad-hoc Committee was necessary to look into all the issues in contention. In setting up this Committee, we spelt out the terms of reference, and the Committee's Report was submitted a day before we went on the last Sallah recess.*

On resumption, it was expected that we would consider the report and come out with a position on the way forward. However, this process has not been allowed to play out for reasons we are all acquainted with.

*Honourable Members, as we mourn our dearly beloved colleague, let us use this occasion to reflect on the good of the House of Representatives, the Legislature, and on the ultimate good of Nigeria. We pray' for the peaceful repose of **Hon. (Dr) Safana's** soul and for Almighty' God to grant him paradise. May God give the family and all of us the strength to bear this irreparable loss.*

Thank you all and God bless.

Hon. (Mrs) Patricia O. Etteh

A minute in silence was observed in Honour of the deceased, while Hon Mohammed Ali Ndume, Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Hon. Njidda Ahmed Gella and Hon. Gbenga Oduwaiye rendered prayers for the repose of his soul.

6. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 30 October, 2007 at **10.00** a.m. (**Hon. Tunde Akogun**).

Adjourned accordingly at 11.00 a.m.

Patricia Olubunmi Etteh
Speaker