



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 30 October, 2007

1. The House met at 12.37 p.m. Madam Speaker read Prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
Madam Speaker announced that she had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 23 October, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Late Commencement of Sitting:**
Madam Speaker apologized and attributed the late commencement of the day's Sitting to the Caucus meeting of the Peoples Democratic Party at the Party Secretariat.
4. Message:
Madam Speaker read the following Condolence Message from the President, Commander-in-Chief, Federal Republic of Nigeria:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

October 22, 2007

*The Rt. Hon. Speaker, House of
Representatives, National
Assembly Complex, Three Anns
Zone, Abuja.*

Excellency and dear Sister,

CONDOLENCE

*I write to condole with you on the unfortunate passing of Hon. (Col.) Joshua Olanrewaju Anota,
Member representing Akoko South-West and South-East Federal Constituency of Ondo State.*

I pray for God's strength and succour for his family and colleagues. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

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

Most sincerely yours,

*(Signed) UMARU MUSA
YAR 'ADVA*

5. Petitions:

Three petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

- (i) Hon. Niyi Jones Akinyigbe (*Idanre/Ifedore Federal Constituency*), from Titilayo Ajileye, praying the House to intervene in the alleged wrongful termination of her appointment by the National Universities Commission and to grant the reliefs sought in the petition;
- (ii) Hon. Aribisala Adewale (*Ekole/Oye Federal Constituency*), from Mrs Majekodumi E. O-, praying the House to prevail on the Federal Inland Revenue Services to reinstate her and grant the reliefs sought in her petition;
- (iii) Hon. Akeem Arole Fancy (*Sundere II Federal Constituency*), from Richard I. Olele, praying the House to investigate his indefinite suspension by the Nigeria Telecommunication Limited and to grant the reliefs sought in his petition.

6. Remarks by Madam Speaker:

Madam Speaker remarked as follows:

Honourable colleagues, my short address to you this morning centres on recent anxieties in the House for which we all are acquainted. I must admit that the adjournment of last Tuesday was improperly done, and it is regretted.

In the family spirit that we have all cultivated, it has been my earnest wish for peace to reign in the House. However, looking at the trend of recent happenings, it is clear that from the way we are going, it is becoming difficult to attain this ideal.

It is my belief that the unfortunate death of Hon. (Dr) Aminu Safana should have become for us a lesson to bury the hatchet and explore ways of quickly resolving our lingering problem.

By the Rules of the House, it is not my function as the Speaker, to preside over the discussion of any report brought before the House. Instead, it is the Deputy Speaker's jurisdiction to preside over Committee reports. Honourable Colleagues, you will recall that, at no time have I ever indicated the wish to preside over the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee we set up, as it is being speculated in some sections of the media.

For my colleagues in the House who know me very well, I am peace-loving and one who strives to be fair and just to all people and in all matters. I am, therefore, not insensitive to happenings in the House. While it is true that moral justice requires that one should not sit as a judge over his own matter, this mantra is easily not applicable to me. This is because our Rules, as stipulated in Order 7, Rule 2, Sub-Rule 2, made it quite clear that I am not to sit over the consideration of any report. It behoves on us to always educate the public on the true position of issues, instead of misleading them for whatever individual interests.

I, therefore, appeal to my colleagues to eschew whatever interests and do what is right. In as much as my Deputy can also not preside in this matter, we must follow the House Rules to guide us in picking a Speaker Pro-Tempore who would preside over the consideration of this Report.

Honourable brothers and sisters, let us be calm and look at this report dispassionately. In the spirit of fair-play, we must quickly resolve this issue and put the past behind us. The legislative calendar is loaded, and we must re-establish our focus and determination to better die lot of the Nigerian people.

Honourable colleagues, I appreciate our collective effort to strengthen our institution and make the House of Representatives a model in legislative engineering.

Thank you all, and God bless.

Hon. (Mrs) Patricia O. Etteh

7. **Extension of Sitting:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: "That the House do suspend Order TV Rule 4 to extend the days sitting (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Question put and agreed to.

S. **Adoption of Special Procedure for the Consideration of the Report of the Independent Ad-Hoc Committee on the Investigation of the Upgrading of the Official Residences of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker: Order 1, Rule 1 (b) Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:**

The Report of the Independent *Ad-Hoc* Committee on the Investigation of the Upgrading of the Official Residences of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker;

The Leader will move a motion for the consideration of the Report. Same shall be seconded. If resolved in affirmative, the House Leader will move for the suspension of Order 7, Rule 2 (2) and other relevant provisions of the Standing Orders for the House to elect a Speaker *Pro-Tempore* to preside in the Committee of the whole to consider the Report.

The motion, when seconded, shall be put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Speaker shall thereupon invite nominations for Speaker *Pro-Tempore*.

The Clerk of the House shall count and announce the result of the election of Speaker *Pro-Tempore*.

Upon the election of the Speaker *Pro-Tempore*, House shall men go into Committee of whole with the Speaker *Pro-Tempore* chairing.

The Speaker of the House will descend to her seat in Chambers.

Upon conclusion of deliberations on the report each day, the Speaker *Pro-Tempore* shall ascend the seat of the Speaker to report progress only. A motion shall be moved by the Leader of the House for the House to adopt the resolutions of Committee of the whole in Plenary. Thereupon, the Speaker *Pro-Tempore* shall vacate the Speaker's seat assume his seat on the floor.

The Speaker of the House shall now resume the seat of the Speaker, conduct any other proceedings and, thereafter, adjourn the House and recess with the Mace.

If the consideration of the Report is not concluded on the First day, this procedure **shall** be followed on each occasion the matter is scheduled for consideration.

Adopted by the House of Representatives in Plenary this day, 30 October, 2007.

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

In line 2, immediately after the words "Deputy Speaker", *leave out* all the words in the Procedure and *insert* the following instead thereof:

The Hon. Speaker shall step down;

The Clerk of the House shall conduct election of a Speaker *Pro-Tempore*;

The House shall resolve into the Committee of Whole for the consideration of the Report of the Independent *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Renovation of the Official Residences of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker;

This Order and the processes in the Committee of Whole shall be determined by the Honourable Members in a division of the House pursuant to Order XI, Rule 2 (Hon. Moiiammed Ali Ndume).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

Adoption of Special Procedure for the Consideration of the Report of the Independent Ad-Hoc Committee on the Investigation of the Upgrading of the Official Residences of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker:

The Hon. Speaker shall step down;

The Clerk of the House shall conduct election of a Speaker *Pro-Tempore*;

The House shall resolve into the Committee of Whole for the consideration of the Report of the Independent Ad-hoc Committee on the Renovation of the Official Residences of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker;

This Order and the processes in the Committee of Whole shall be determined by the Honourable Members in a division of the House pursuant to Order XI, Rule 2.

Adopted by the House of Representatives in Plenary this day, 30 October, 2007 (HR. 11/2007).

9. Election of Speaker Pro-Tempore:
Pursuant to the Resolution of the House, the Clerk called for nominations:

- (i) Hon. George Ford Nwosu (*Etche/Omumu Federal Constituency, River State*) nominated Hon. Teragu Tsegba (*Gboko/Tarka Federal Constituency, Benue State*) and was seconded by Hon. Binm Masi Garba.
- (ii) Hon. Mathew Mahakwe Omegara (*Onuimo/Okigwe/Isiaki Mbano Federal Constituency*), nominated Hon. Ehiogie West Idahosa (*Ovia North East/South West Federal Constituency*) and was seconded by Hon. Malaye Daniel Dino (*Kabba/Buni/Ijumu Federal Constituency*).

House Divided:

<i>Total number of votes cast for Hon. Terngu Tsegba</i>	—	255
<i>Total number of votes cast for Hon. Ehiogie West Idahosa</i>	—	33
<i>Abstention</i>	—	2

Hon. Terngu Tsegba having polled 255 Votes being the highest number of vote cast was declared duly elected as the Speaker Pro-Tempore.

10. Acceptance Speech by the Speaker Pro-Tempore: : .
Hon. Colleagues,

Let me start this short speech by expressing my profound gratitude to all the distinguished Members of this honourable House for finding me worthy of leadership at this crucial period in the life of democracy in Nigeria.

No doubt the last 3 months have been most tempting and turbulent in the green Chamber of the National Assembly of Nigeria. The problem became so intractable that it was believed in some quarters that the House was incapable of resolving its internal problems. In this regard I wish to commend the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Umar Musa Yar'Adua for holding tenaciously to the doctrine of separation of powers and by implication avoiding interference.

Distinguished colleagues, today provides for us a golden opportunity to re-establish the faith of Nigerians in the capacity of their Representatives to discharge their mandate in the public interest.

For my part, I pledge to be firm but fair in the discharge of this historic mandate conferred on me. I call for your support as Honourable colleagues to assiduously dispense this matter so that the House can get into the main business for which we were elected.

Let me thank all Nigerians for their unwavering support and patience while this unfortunate incidence lasted. I trust the Almighty God that their patience is not in vain.

Thank you very much, once again.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba
Speaker Pro-Tempore

Executive Session — **2.40 p.m.**

House in Plenary — **3.45 p.m.**

11. Decision at the Executive Session:

The Speaker *Pro-Tempore* reported that the House in the Executive Session resolved as follows:

That the aggregate opinion of the House was that the present House Leadership could not continue to preside over a divided House and as a consequence, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker should resign immediately.

Question that the House do adopt the Decision of the House on the Executive Session, put and agreed to.

12. Resignation of Madam Speaker and the Deputy Speaker:

The Speaker *Pro-Tempore* read the following letters of resignations from Madam Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, respectively:



**DEPUTY SPEAKER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

*The Clerk to the National Assembly
National Assembly Complex Three
Arms Zone Abuja*

RESIGNATION AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

- *It is a matter of public knowledge that events in the House of Representatives, in the last few weeks since the breaking of the story on the award of contract, have over heated the system.*

This has led to a situation that has hampered the smooth operation of the House and the ability of Members to discharge their constitutional responsibilities to the people who elected us. This has an attendant consequence on our legislative functions and the operations of the government in general.

In our collective desire to find a lasting solution to this unfortunate development, it has become imperative for some of us to play the role of statesmen in the interest of our dear nation.

Accordingly, I humbly tender my resignation as the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives with immediate effect. I hope and pray that this sacrifice will contribute towards finding a lasting solution to the problems facing the House.

I wish to express my everlasting gratitude to all my colleagues who reposed their confidence in me by giving me the opportunity to serve this House and the nation. I would also like to thank the teaming Nigerians who supported us through these trying times.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Hon. Babangida Nguroje

30-10-07

13.

Adjournment:

And it being 4.29 p.m. the House adjourned till Wednesday, 31 October, 2007 at 2.00 p.m.

Terngu Tsegba
Speaker Pro-Tempore