



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 27 November. 2007

1. The House met at 11.30 a.m. Mr. Deputy Speaker read Prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 22 November, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. Announcements:

(i) *Communication:*

Mr Deputy Speaker read a letter from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as follows:



INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION
INEC-HEADQUARTERS
Plot 436, Zambazi Crescent, Manama District.
P.M.B. 0184, Abuja. Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
09-4133339, Fax: 4133843
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

INEC/SEC/3,05/11

29th October, 2007

*The Honourable Speaker, House
of Representatives, National
Assembly Complex, 3 - Arms
Zone, Abuja.*

RE: VIREMENT PROPOSAL OF 2007
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION

I have the honour to apply for virement of the sum of N500,000,000.00 (Five hundred Million Naira) only from the sum of 1 Billion (One Billion) Naira only approved for the Independent National Electoral Commission in the. 2007 supplementary appropriation.

2. This request is predicated by the need to provide funds for the expenditure sub-heads as attached because the 2007 overhead appropriation did not make adequate provision for these expenditures.

3. The Commission has a time-line as approved by law to conduct **bye-elections among others** and in order to fulfill its legal obligations, financial provisions for conduct of bye-elections has to be made.

4. Please, accept the assurances of my high esteem **and** regards.

(Signed) **ABDULLAHIA.**
KAUGAMA
 Ag. SECRETARY, INEC.

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

(ii) **Visitor:**

Mr Deputy Speaker recognized the presence in the **Gallery**, of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Lagos State House of Assembly.

4. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. Clever Ikisikpo (*Ogbia Federal Constituency*), from Mr Nathaniel Itelumu, praying the House to investigate his alleged wrongful dismissal from the Nigeria Police and grant the relief sought therein;
- (ii) Hon. Bala **Ibn** Na'Allah (*Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D//Wasagu Federal Constituency*), from Mr Mohammed Isa Dabai, praying the House to investigate his alleged wrongful dismissal from the service of the Independent National Electoral Commission **with** a view to ensure justice;
- (iii) Hon. Anthony Madwatte (*Demsa/Numan/Lamurde Federal Constituency*), from Mr Musa Dilli, praying the House to intervene on the case of unlawful incarceration and passing of Death Sentence on him by the Libyan Authorities and grant the relief sought therein;
- (iv) Hon. Anthony Madwatte (*Demsa/Numan/Lamurde Federal Constituency*), from Chief Polycarp Mbande and Mr Poroni Aragwa on behalf of members of the retrenched Workers Association of Savannah Sugar Company Limited, praying the House to investigate the incorrect payment of their Terminal Benefits by the Management and the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) and grant the relief sought therein;
- (v) Hon. Suleiman Kokori Abdul (*Ohene/Ogori-Magogo Federal Constituency*), from Ojiah Francis, praying the House to investigate his alleged dismissal from the service of the Federal Road Safety Commission and grant the relief sought therein;
- (vi) Hon. Abass Braimah (*Etsako East/West Central Federal Constituency*), from Okhavhe, G. E. A., praying the House to investigate his alleged unlawful retirement by the Nigerian Postal Services and grant the relief sought therein;
- (vii) Hon. Isa Dobi (*Abuja South Federal Constituency*), from the family of Malam Yusuf Bokitsu Kilankwa I, praying the House to investigate the gruesome killing of Dauda Yusuf by men of the Nigeria Police Force and grant the reliefs sought therein;
- (viii) Hon. Samuel W. Sejero (*Badagry Federal Constituency*), from the NICON Insurance Corporation Pensioners, praying the House to intervene in the matter of the non-payment of their pensions and other entitlements with a view to redressing the trend and paying their entitlements.

5- **Matter of Urgent Public Importance**

Hon. Dino Melaye drew the attention of the House to the recent publication in three Nigerian Newspapers, in respect of the problem of Gas Flaring, which he considered as an issue of national importance. He prayed the House to debate the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) to enable the House debate the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be debated as one of Urgent Public Importance, put and negatived.

6. The Crisis of Unemployment in Nigeria:
The House:

Notes, the high level of unemployment in the Country today;

Further notes, that job creation remains a potent instrument in the fight against abject poverty and hunger;

Disturbed, that the policies and programmes of successive governments on job creation have not translated into drastic reduction in unemployment;

Observes, that massive youth unemployment has the proclivity to encourage social vices;

Concerned, that the youth restiveness in the Niger Delta and the menace occasioned by the upsurge in the army of unemployed persons across the country are not unconnected with problems traceable to unemployment;

Conscious, that the issue of brain drain is not just the resultant effect of poor remuneration but also a derived consequence of the seemingly unending crisis of unemployment in Nigeria;

Worried, that national development would remain a mirage if the issues of unemployment remains unresolved;

Further concerned, that the image of Nigeria which has over the years been severely battered will not improve substantially if the bulk of the citizenry are not engaged in productive ventures;

Resolves to:

(i) urge the President to declare a state of emergency on unemployment in Nigeria and take proactive measures by putting in place programmes of job creation and poverty alleviation;

(ii) urge the President to give more incentives that would serve as an impetus or springboard for the growth of the private sector that would in turn lead to increased employment opportunities (*Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon and 14 others*);

Order VIII, Rule 9 (3) and (4):

Pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 9 (3) and (4), Hon. Gbenga O. Elegbeleye drew the attention of the House to the procedure in respect of Notices of Motions which continued to be breached. He complained that the Notice of this particular Motion was only circulated the previous day, thereby depriving Members of adequate preparation and research that would enable them make meaningful contributions to debate. He therefore urged the House to ensure compliance with procedure, in respect of timely Notices of Motions.

Debate:

Point of Order sustained.

Ordered, that Motion be accordingly referred to the Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity for its inputs, prior to its scheduling by the Committee on Rules and Business, and subject to timely notice to Members.

7. Consideration of Report:
Ad-Hoc Committee on Foreign Affairs:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the *Ad-Hoc* Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Investigation in to the Gruesome Killing of Mr Osamuyi Akpitanhi and approve the Recommendations" (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*).

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 AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE
INVESTIGATION IN TO THE GRUESOME KILLING OF MR OSAMUYI AKPITANHI*Recommendations (i):*

That the Spanish government, should tender an apology to the Nigerian Government and the family of late **Osamuyi** Akpitanhi (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*).

Amendment Proposed

In line 1, **immediately** after the word "tender" insert the words "a written" instead thereof (*Hon. Labaran Y. Dambatta*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

That the Federal Government of Nigeria should use its best diplomatic and consular endeavors to ensure **the** release of the corpse of late Osarnuyi Akpitanhi to the deceased's family for proper burial rites in view of the traditions and religious practices of his family (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*) — *Agreed to.*

Recommendation (iii):

That the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and particularly, the Nigerian Mission in Spain continue to use its best endeavors to ensure that justice is done fairly, transparently and speedily (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*) — *Agreed to.*

Recommendation (iv):

That irrespective of the outcome of the on-going criminal inquiries, **investigations** and or trials of the Spanish officials implicated in the late Akpitanhi's death, the Federal Government of Nigerian should request that adequate and prompt compensation be paid to **the** deceased's family by the Spanish Government (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*) — *Agreed to.*

Recommendation v:

That the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Nigerian Mission in Spain lift the ban on the deportation of Nigerian nationals in irregular situations to prevent death **owing** to humiliating conditions and unhealthy environment Nigerians are subjected to at the detention centres where they are being kept pending deportation in line with the Bilateral Immigration Agreement signed in 2001 (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*) — *Agreed to.*

Recommendation (vi):

That the Nigerian Mission in Spain be granted an approval for an officer from the Mission to accompany all deportation flights to Nigeria to avert any incident of mishandling, maltreatment or death of our compatriots (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*).

Question put and negated.

Recommendation (vii):

That the Committees on Foreign Affairs, National Security and Intelligence and Cooperation and Integration in Africa of the House should forthwith conduct an audit of the facilities and infrastructure of Nigerian Mission abroad and in consultation with the Honourable Minister make adequate budgetary provision in the National budget. This is to enable Nigerian Missions and their personnel to give optimal consular services to Nigerians and project Nigerian identity and pride (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*).

Question put and negated.

Recommendation (viii):

That the Committees on Justice, Human Rights. Foreign Affairs. Interior and Cooperation and Integration in Africa of the House, be mandated to study all Memorandum of Understandings and other Agreements entered into by Nigeria in respect of deportation of its citizens and ensure that such Memorandum of Understandings are beneficial to both countries and are respected and to ensure that such Agreements are initiated in cases where there are none (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*).

Question put and negatived.

Recommendation (ix):

That the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice in conjunction **with the** Ministry of Foreign Affairs acting in collaboration with the **Ministry** of Interior, should evolve a strategy of defending the rights of Nigerians abroad through insistence on the observance of the various Human Rights Protocols, declarations, conventions, etc. whenever it becomes necessary to do so. The Committee commends the efforts made by **the** Foreign Affairs Minister in this regard (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*).

Question put and negatived.

Recommendation (x):

That the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, interior, Cooperation and Integration in Africa and National Security and Intelligence should forthwith organise a stakeholders meeting to work out a strategy of effective border patrol and policing by the appropriate agencies and also to ensure that adequate operational budgetary provision is made in the **National** budget (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*).

Question put and negatived.

Recommendation (xi):

That the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and the Office of the National Security Adviser should forthwith convene a stakeholder meeting to work out a strategy of establishing a multi-agency board for the purpose of harmonizing all intelligence and operational activities concerning the implementation of the free movement of citizens in the ECOWAS sub-region and its implications on illegal immigration and human trafficking (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*).

Question put and negatived.

Recommendation (xii):

That the Ministry of Information and Communications be made to liaise with States and Local Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in creating awareness of the dangers of illegal migration especially in States where human trafficking and illegal migration is prevalent (*Hon. H. S. Dickson*).

Question put and negatived.

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 *Ad-Hoc* Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Investigation in to the Gruesome Killing of Mr Osamuyi Akpitanhi and approved Recommendation 1 as amended, Recommendations 2, 3, 4 and 5, deleted Recommendations 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

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

8. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 28 November, 2007 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.55 p.m.