



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 14 November, 2007

1. The House met at 2.35 p.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. Votes **and** Proceedings:
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 13 November, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**

(i) *Debate on the 2008 Budget Proposal:*

Mr Speaker announced that Members who wished to contribute to the debate on the general principles of the 2008 **Appropriation** Bill should submit their names to the following:

- (a) Clerks-at-The-Table
- (b) Office of the Clerk
- (c) Committee on Rules and Business, Committee Room 6.

(ii) *Committee Chairmanship:*

Mr Speaker read a letter from Hon. Bernard Udoh, **withdrawing** his letter of resignation as the Chairman, Committee on Due Process dated Tuesday, 16 October, 2007.

Mr Speaker affirmed his approval.

(iii) *Visitor:*

Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Gallery of Hon. Egbong Simon Mkoro, Special Adviser to the Governor of Cross River State on Political and Legislative Affairs.

4. **Petitions:**

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

- (i) Hon. David Idoko (*Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*), from Anthony Onoja, praying the House to investigate his alleged wrongful dismissal from the Nigerian Social Insurance **Trust** Fund (NSITF) and grant the reliefs sought therein;
- (ii) Hon. David Idoko (*Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*), from Ochayi Oji Edwin, praying the House to investigate the alleged termination of his employment from the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), and grant the reliefs sought therein;
- (iii) Hon. Mulikat Akande Adeola (*Ogbomosho North/South/Orire Federal Constituency*), from Babatunde Adeyinka Ezekiel, praying the House to investigate his alleged compulsory retirement by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), and grant the reliefs sought therein.

5. Urgent Need for the Relocation of Ikot Ekpene Prison to its Permanent Site:
Motion made and Question proposed,
The House:

Notes, the wrong location of a Prison in the centre of Ikot Ekpene town which is aesthetically unsuitable for modern civility;

Further notes, that it is the only prison situated within 100 metres of any seat of administration, of any of the three tiers of government;

Recognizes, that one could not continue to ignore this colonial error, as the location of a dilapidated prison in the centre of a town constitutes environmental and security hazards;

Disturbed, that a permanent site strategically and suitably situated and almost 85 percent completed, has been abandoned for over 25 years (1980 - 2007);

Further disturbed, over this prolonged negligence in completing this structure and relocating the prison to its permanent site;

Worried, that this abandoned project has become an eye-sore and a waste of financial resources plunged into it by the Federal Government;

Resolves to:

Urge the President to direct the Federal Ministry of Interior to as a matter of urgency to ensure the completion of the permanent site and the subsequent relocation of this moribund prison to the permanent site (*Hon. Patty Etete Ineme and 12 Others*).

. Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new prayer (ii) as follows:

"Urge the Federal Ministry of Interior as a matter of urgency to ensure adequate provision in the 2008 Budget for the completion of the permanent site and the subsequent relocation of the moribund Prison to the Permanent site" (*Hon. Isah Idris Umaru*).

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

- (ii) *Insert* a new prayer (iii) as follows:

"direct the Committee on Interior as a matter of urgency to ensure adequate provision in the 2008 Budget for the completion of the permanent site and the subsequent relocation of the moribund Prison to the Permanent site" (*Hon. Isah Idris Umaru*).

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

- (iii) *Insert* a new prayer (iv) as follows:

"Direct the Committee on Interior to embark on a tour of our Prisons across the country with a view to determining the deplorable conditions of prisons and make adequate provision in the 2008 Budget to enable the Interior Ministry carry out various projects of relocation, rehabilitation and construction of Prisons" (*Hon. Austine Nwachukwu*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to. The

House:

Noted, the wrong location of a Prison in the centre of Ikot Ekpene town which is aesthetically unsuitable for modern civility;

Further noted, that it is the only prison, situated within 100 metres of any seat of administration, of any the three tiers of government;

Recognized, that one could not continue to ignore this colonial error, as the location of a dilapidated prison in the centre of a town constitutes an environmental and security hazard;

Disturbed, that a permanent site strategically and suitably situated and almost 85 percent completed, has been abandoned for over 25 years (1980 - 2007);

Further disturbed, over this prolong negligence in completing this structure and relocating the prison to its permanent site;

Worried, that this abandoned project has become an eye-sore and a waste of financial resources plunged into it by the Federal Government;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the President to direct the Federal Ministry of Interior to as a matter of urgency to ensure the completion of the permanent site and the subsequent relocation of this moribund prison to the permanent site;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Interior as a matter of urgency to ensure adequate provision in the 2008 Budget for the completion of the permanent site and the subsequent relocation of the moribund Prison to the Permanent site;
- (iii) direct the Committee on Interior as a matter of urgency to ensure adequate provision in the 2008 Budget for the completion of the permanent site and the subsequent relocation of the moribund Prison to the Permanent site;
- ,..., (iv) direct the Committee on Interior to embark on a tour of our Prisons across the country with a view to determining the deplorable conditions of prisons and make adequate provision in the 2008 Budget to enable the Interior Ministry carry out various projects of relocation, rehabilitation and construction of Prisons (HR. 15/2007).

6. A Bill for an Act to make Public Record and Information more freely available, provide for Public Access to Public Records and Information, Protect Public Records and Information to the extent consistent with the Public Interest and the Protection of Personal Privacy, Protect Serving Public Officials from adverse consequences for disclosing certain kinds of Official Information without authorization and establish Procedure for the achievement of those Purposes and Related Purpose Thereof, 2007 — *Second Reading*:

Resumption of Debate:

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Motion made and Question proposed, "That pursuant to Order XV, Rule 8, mis House do resolve to commit the Bill for an Act to Make Public Record and Information more freely available, provide for Public Access to Public Records and Information, Protect Public Records and Information to the extent consistent with the Public Interest and the Protection of Personal Privacy, Protect Serving Public Officials from adverse consequences for disclosing certain kinds of Official Information without authorization and establish Procedure for the achievement of those Purposes and Related Purpose Thereof, 2007 to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly committed to the Committee of the Whole.

7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act to grant priority to the promotion and development of renewable energy sources, and for Other Matters Relating Thereto, 2007 — *Second Reading*:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act to grant priority to the promotion and development of renewable energy sources, and for Other Matters Relating Thereto, 2007 be now read a Second Time".

Resumption of Debate:

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Power and Steel.

8. Order XII, Rule 3 (2):

Raising on Order XII, Rule 3 (2), Hon. Friday that, drew the attention of the House on the need for timely notices on Bills and Motions to be provided to Members to enable them contribute meaningfully to debates.

Committee on Rules and Business ordered to comply.

9. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 15 November, 2007 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akoguri*).

Adjourned accordingly at 4.27 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker