



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 17 January, 2008

1. The House met at 11.00 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
Mr Speaker announced that, he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 16 January, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

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



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

January 10, 2008

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

Excellency and dear brother,

REVERSAL OF DECISION TO PURCHASE VEHICLES FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICE HOLDERS

The Honourable Speaker would recall that at the inception of this Administration, the issue of procurement of vehicles for Ministers and other Political Office Holders was considered and Government then thought it appropriate to purchase and provide dedicated official vehicles to Ministers, Special Advisers Permanent Secretaries. This was mooted in consideration of the nature of the functions of these aforementioned officers.

However, the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) has advised that embarking on this action would be tantamount to a breach of the "Certain Political, Public and Judicial Officer Holders (Salaries and Allowances, etc.) Act No. 6 of 2007, a line which my Administration is not willing to tow. Similarly, I have observed the negative perception of the public towards the intention behind the procurement of the vehicles.

Consequently, I have brought the matter before the Federal Executive Council which at its meeting of 9th January, 2008 vacated the earlier Council conclusion that gave approval and meaning to the exercise. You may, therefore, wish to take note of this development, and, accordingly adjust all records before you as appropriate.

Please accept, Mr Speaker, the assurances of my consideration and fraternity to you and the Honourable Members at all times.

Kind regards,

-(Signed)
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. Dino Melaye (*Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency*), from Mr Charles Edet against the Abuja Environmental Protection Board Task Force, praying the House to intervene in the alleged violation of his fundamental human rights and grant the reliefs sought therein;
- (ii) Hon. Mayor Eze Chukwudi (*Orlu/Orsu/Om East Federal Constituency*), from Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), praying the House to investigate the irregular and unpatriotic activities of the Board and Management of the Nigeria Independent Petroleum Company Plc (NIPCO) whose fraudulent activities make it difficult for IPMAN members to purchase and sell petroleum products at Government approved prices and grant other reliefs sought therein;
- (iii) Hon Solomon Awhinawhi (*Udu/Ughelli Federal Constituency*), from Steel Town 1 Tenants Association, praying the House to prevail on the Delta Steel Company (DSC) Management and BPE to stop the unlawful eviction of their members from their official residences and grant other reliefs sought therein;
- (iv) Hon Mohammed K. Darangi (*Rijau-Magama Federal Constituency*), from Major James Mande Hanya (retired), praying the House to prevail on the Federal Government to cause all those officers and men of the Nigerian Army who served and retired after 10 years of service to be paid pension;
- (v) Hon Mohammed K. Darangi (*Rijau-Magama Federal Constituency*), from Dija Travels and Tours Limited, praying the House to intervene and cause the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) to pay Dija Travels and Tours Ltd Compensation and grant other reliefs sought therein;
- (vi) Hon. Sokonte Davies (*Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency*), from Temedi Family of Tebidaba Community, praying the House to compel Nigerian Agip Oil Company to pay compensation for the destruction of their farmlands, fishing channels and fish ponds caused by crude oil spillages from Agip Oil Pipelines and grant other reliefs sought therein;
- (vii) Hon. Sokonte Davies (*Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency*), from G. O. Anyalemechi, praying the House to intervene in the alleged wrongful dismissal from the services of the Nigeria Army and grant other reliefs sought therein;
- (viii) Hon. Obinna Chidoka (*Idemili North Federal Constituency*), from Engr J. O. Okoye, praying the House to cause NAMA to revisit the issue of the alleged wrongful termination of his appointment and grant other reliefs sought therein.

5. Matter Requiring Urgent Attention of the House:

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume drew the attention of the House to the plight of Nigerian Pilgrims in Saudi Arabia who remained stranded at the airport for weeks, with little or no provisions for their needs. He sought the intervention of the House for a quick airlifting of the Pilgrims.

In his explanation, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs attributed the delay in the return of the Pilgrims to the restriction of the Nigerian Pilgrims to only two entry points as well as the use of small capacity aircrafts by the Airlines selected to airlift the Pilgrims, instead of the recommended Jumbo Carriers.

Mr Speaker, based on reliable information, assured Hon. Members that the Hajj Commission was doing everything possible to evacuate the remaining Nigerian Pilgrims before the January 18, 2008 deadline given by the Saudi Authorities.

6. A Bill for an Act to Enable the Federal Government of Nigeria give effect to the Agreement between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, concerning the Modalities of withdrawal and Transfer of the Authority in the Bakassi Peninsula and for Purposes Connected Therewith, 2008 — **Second Reading:**

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Order read, deferred:

Treaty was not accompanied by a Bill. Pursuant to Section 12 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Treaty ought to have been introduced in the form of a Bill.

7. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Competition Commission and for Purposes Connected Therewith, 2007 — **Second Reading:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Competition Commission and for Purposes Connected Therewith, 2008 be now read a Second Time" {Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum}.

Debate:

*Debate adjourned pending clarifications from the Committee on Rules and **Business** on whether a Bill of the same subject matter had been passed by the preceding National Assembly.*

8. A Bill for an Act to Regulate the Practice and to make Provisions for the Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists Regulation Board of Nigeria and for other Matters Connected Thereto, 2007 — **Second Reading:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Practice and to make Provisions for the Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists Regulation Board of Nigeria and for other Matters Connected Thereto, 2007 be now read a Second Time" {Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie}.

Debate:

Debate adjourned for non-compliance with Order XII, Rule 1 (3), which provides for a prior circulation of a Compendium of background information and financial implications of the Bill.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act, No. 34 of 1996 to include Certain Provision necessary to ensure greater efficiency in the Performance and Exercise of the Duties and Functions of the Commission, and Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto, 2007 — **Second Reading:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act, No. 34 of 1996 to include Certain Provision necessary to ensure greater efficiency in the Performance and Exercise of the Duties and Functions of the Commission, and Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto, 2007 be now read a Second Time" {Hon. Bassey Etim}.

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 Public Service Matters and Federal Character.

10. Extension of Sitting:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order IV, Rule 4 to extend the Day's Sitting {Hon. Tunde Akogun}.

Question put and agreed to.

House in Executive Session — 1.08 p.m.

House in Plenary — 3.05 p.m.

11. Adjournment:

And it being 3.10 p.m. the House adjourned till Tuesday, 22 January, 2008 at 10.00 **a.m.**

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker