



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 15 January, 2008

1. The House met at 11.05 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, 10 January, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Petitions:**
Three petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.
 - (i) Hon. Austine Nwachukwu Ehime *Mbano/Ihitte Uboma/Obowo Federal Constituency*), from Mr Okafor, Anthony Uzomah, praying the House to intervene in the alleged wrongful and unjust disengagement from the Service of Akami Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana, Afikpo, Ebonyi State and grant the reliefs sought therein;
 - (ii) Hon. Ita Enang *Itu Federal Constituency*), from Legislative Aides of the National Assembly, praying the House to intervene in the alleged short-payment of their severance pay and grant the reliefs sought therein.

Ordered, That the Committee on Public Petitions report the matter on Thursday, 17 January, 2008.

- (iii) Hon. Paul O. Eze (*Igbo Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*), from Emmanuel Chike Amadi, praying the House to investigate his alleged wrongful dismissal from the service of the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu and grant the reliefs sought **therein**.

4. **Privilege:**
Relying on Order V, Hon. Igo Aguma drew the attention of the House to a Publication in ThisDay Newspaper of Sunday, January 13, 2008, in which it was alleged that none of the Recommendations or Resolutions of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Poor Quality of GSM had any ingredients that could assist in improving on the current quality of service problems of the GSM services. It further alleged that "the failure of the Commission to dance to the tune of the Committee which primarily was not set up to probe the budgets of the Commission must have resulted in its making such a vindictive remark about the Commission and its management".

Hon. Igo Aguma averred that the above remarks in ThisDay Newspaper had cast aspersions on the integrity of the House and its Committee. He therefore urged the House to refer the alleged breach of privilege to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges for further investigations.

Debate:

- (i) *Matter referred to the House Committee on Ethics and Privileges;*

(if) *Ordered, That Committee on Communications present its Report within two weeks;*

(iii) *Ordered, That Committee on Legislative Compliance present a Report on the level of compliance within one week.*

5. Presentation of Bill:
National Council for Widows, Dependent Children and Orphans (Establishment, Special Provision, etc.) Bill, 2007 — *Read the First Time.*

6. Revitalizing Nigeria's Textile Industry:
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes, that high cost of production have made it uncompetitive for local industries to thrive thereby resulting to unceremonial closure;

Concerned, that in spite of the ban placed on imported textile materials, such products still flood the Nigerian market at relatively cheaper prices than similar materials produced locally;

Worried, that over 250,000 jobs have been lost in about 15 years as a result of the closure of textile factories in Nigeria with about 4000 jobs lost in the latest factory closure in Kaduna;

Further notes, that job losses resulting into deeper and hard biting poverty poses very serious challenges to national security;

Disturbed, that resuscitation funds intended to revitalize the textile industry is yet to translate into real production;

Aware, that Nigeria's membership of certain global governance institutions have affected same sectors of the economy including the textile industry;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Joint Committee on Commerce, Industry and Agriculture and Water Resources to conduct a public hearing to collate the views of all relevant stakeholders on the appropriate action(s) to be taken by government to revitalize the textile industry and to report back to the House;
- (if) invite the Ministers for Finance and Agriculture and Water Resources to explain to the House on the whereabouts of the N50 billion and N20 billion set aside for the resuscitation of textile factories and cotton production respectively;
- (iii) direct the Comptroller-General of Customs to take appropriate steps towards enforcing the ban placed on imported textile materials;
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to review Nigeria's participation in international trade conventions with a view to guaranteeing the welfare of Nigerians and Nigeria's interests (*Hon. Ike Chinwo*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out all the words in Prayer (ii) (Hon. Igo Aguma).*

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

Leave out all the words in Prayer (iii) (Hon. Igo Aguma). Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to. Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted, that high cost of production have made it uncompetitive for local industries to thrive thereby resulting to unceremonial closure;

Concerned, that in spite of the ban placed on imported textile materials, such products still flood the Nigerian market at relatively cheaper prices than similar materials produced locally;

Worried, that over 250,000 jobs have been lost in about 15 years as a result of the closure of textile factories in Nigeria with about 4000 jobs lost in the latest factory closure in Kaduna;

Further noted, that job losses resulting into deeper and hard biting poverty poses very serious challenges to national security;

Disturbed, that resuscitation funds intended to revitalize the textile industry is yet to translate into real production;

Aware, that Nigeria's membership of certain global governance institutions have affected same sectors of the economy including the textile industry;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Joint Committee on Commerce, Industry and Agriculture and Water Resources to conduct a public hearing to collate the views of all relevant stakeholders on the appropriate action(s) to be taken by government to revitalize the textile industry and to report back to the House;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to review Nigeria's participation in international trade conventions with a view to guaranteeing the welfare of Nigerians and Nigeria's interests (**HR. 01/2008**).

7. **Committee's Jurisdiction:**

Hon. Friday Itulah drew the attention of the House to the publication in Vanguard Newspaper of Monday, January 14, 2008 in which a Standing Committee was alleged to have investigated the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) on wrongdoings based on a petition it received from some members of the public.

He stated that the Standing Committees of the House are not autonomous and are supposed to obtain the mandate of the House through Resolutions before carrying out such assignments, pursuant to section 62 (1) and (4) of the 1999 Constitution.

Ruling on the matter, the Deputy Speaker stated that Standing Committees have powers to investigate any matter that falls within their jurisdiction as provided for in the Standing Orders of the House.

8. Consideration of **Reports:**

(i) *Committee on Public Petitions:*

Report on the Petition by Brigadier-General (Dr) J. O. Ayeni:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Brigadier-General (Dr) J. O. Ayeni against the Nigeria Army and approve the Recommendation therein" (*Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Report — agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE) (*Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair*)

Debate:

Recommendation:

That the Petition of Brigadier-General J. O. Ayeni be dismissed as due process was adhered to in his retirement (*Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum*).

Question put and agreed to.

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 Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Brigadier-General (Dr) J. O. Ayeni against the Nigeria Army and approved the only Recommendation therein.

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

(ii) *Committee on Public Petitions:*

Report on the Petition by A. A. Bello and O. A. Akinsanya:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by A. A. Bello and O. A. Akinsanya on behalf of disengaged staff of Cooperative Bank against Skye Bank and approve the Recommendation therein" (Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Report — agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE) (Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Debate:

Recommendation:

"That since the issue of the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) has been amicably resolved, all other issues in the petition by former Staff of Cooperative Bank now Skye Bank be dismissed as it lacked merit" (*Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum*).

Question put and agreed to.

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 Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by A. A. Bello and O. A. Akinsanya on behalf of disengaged staff of Cooperative Bank against Skye Bank and approved the Recommendation therein.

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

(iii) *Committee on Public Petitions:*

Report on the Petition by BUA International Limited:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by BUA International Limited against the Bureau of Public Enterprises and approve the Recommendations therein" (Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Report — agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE) (Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Debate:

Recommendations (i):

That due process was not adhered to in the procedure leading to the purchase of Delta Steel Company by Global Infrastructure Holdings Nigeria Limited (*Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum*).

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendations (ii):

That Delta Steel Company (DSC) should be handed over to BUA International Nigeria Limited, which won the rights to Delta Steel Company in an open competitive and transparent bidding (*Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum*).

Amendment Proposed:

In line 2, immediately after the word "bidding" insert the words "in addition to the take-over by BUA International Nigeria Limited, Nigerian jobs should be protected under the new take over agreement by it" instead thereof (*Hon. Emmanuel Bello*).

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

Another Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Recommendation (iii) as follows:

"That in view of the fact that Global Infrastructures Holdings Ltd did not bid for the Delta Steel Company in the first place, The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) be urged to investigate the matter and allegation of money laundering of about N30 Billion or \$250 Million against Global Infrastructures Holdings Ltd" (*Hon. Terngu Tsegba*).

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

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 Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by BUA International Limited against the Bureau of Public Enterprises and approved Recommendation (i), amended Recommendation (ii) and approved a new Recommendation (iii).

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

9. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 16 January, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.28 p.m.

Usman Bayero Nafada
Deputy Speaker