



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 23 January, 2008

1. The House met at 2.45 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, 22 January, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. Announcements:
(a) *Communication:*
Mr Speaker read a communication from the Vice-President, Federal Republic of Nigeria:



VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

SB/VP/2

11th January, 2008

*His Excellency,
Rt. Hon. Oladimeji Bankole, CFR
Hon. Speaker,
House of Representatives
National Assembly,
Abuja.*

Your Excellency,

NOTIFICATION OF DEATH AND BURIAL CEREMONY OF
LATE PA EBELE LAWRENCE JONATHAN

With gratitude to Almighty God for a life well spent, I write to formally inform you of the passing on to eternal glory of my father, Pa Ebele Lawrence Jonathan on Friday 12th December, 2007 at the age of 81.

2. *It is my wish, on behalf of the family, to notify you of the final burial ceremony which has been tentatively scheduled to take place at Otuoke Village in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State on Saturday 26th January, 2008. The family would however, make formal burial announcement as soon as arrangements are finalized.*

3. *Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.*

(Signed)

Dr Goodluck E. Jonathan, GCON
Vice President

- (b) *Bereavement:*

Mr Speaker also acquainted the Hon. Members with the death of:

- (i) Hon. Abiodun Osuolale Afonja, a Member of the House of Representatives from 1979 to 1983;

- (ii) Hon. Chief Festus Adelusi Olowolafe Osekita, a Member of the House of Representatives from 1979 to 1983.

A minute in silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

- (c) *Threats of strike actions Nationwide:*

Mr Speaker referred to the threats of strike actions by Labour Unions in all levels of Institutions of Learning including the Teaching Hospitals across the States. He stated that this development had negative impact on the youths and had become imperative for the House of Representatives to intervene. He therefore urged leaders of various Geopolitical Caucuses to note and reachout to such institutions and also fashion out modalities for prompt and pragmatic intervention and furnish him with development in that regard.

4. *Matter of Urgent Public Importance:*

Invoking Order VIII, Rule 4, Hon. Betty Apiafi drew the attention of the House to the declining value of the United States Dollar as reported in the *Thisday* News Paper of Wednesday, 23 January, 2008. She stated that tills development was worrisome because of its impending negative impact on the Nation's Economy given the fact that the Nations Foreign Reserve and revenue from oil were saved in Dollars. She urged the House to debate the matter as one of Urgent Public Importance.

Question put and agreed to.

Matter to stand-over till the next legislative day.

5. *Presentation of Bill:*

Tobacco Control Bill, 2008 (HB. 28) — *Read the First Time.*

6. *Under-Utilization of Sapele Sea Port:*

Motion made and Question proposed,
The House:

Notes, the closure of the Sapele Sea Port to normal port activities and its conversion to a Naval Base, during the General Babangida Administration;

Further notes, that the Naval Base has since relocated to Oghara, leaving the entire structure to waste but for the School which occupies only one fifth of the area;

Concerned, about the huge investment made by the Federal Government in building the Sea Port and its present state of disuse;

Worried, by the enormous loss of revenue to the Federal Government, as a result of this state of affairs;

Disturbed, that the abandonment of the Sea Port has compounded the unemployment problems amongst Youths and impeded the development potentials of the area;

Resolves to:

Mandate the House Committee of Marine Transport to undertake a facility tour of the Sapele Sea Port with a view to ascertaining the level of decay of the facilities and make appropriate recommendations to the House (*Hon. Onofekohwo J. Overall and 18 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In line 1 of the prayer, immediately after the word "undertake", delete the words "a facility tour" and insert the word "comprehensive study" instead thereof.

Question put and negatived.

- (ii) In line 2 of the prayer, delete the word "decay" and insert the words "under utilisation and abandonment" thereof {Hon. Emeka Stanley}.

Question put and agreed to.

- (iii) Insert a new Prayer as follows:
"Urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation (Marine Section) to put the necessary steps in place with a view to revitalising the Sapele Port" (Hon. Friday Itulah).

Question put and negatived.

Main question as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved:

The Mouse:

Noted, the closure of the Sapele Sea Port to normal port activities and its conversion to a Naval Base, during the General Babangida Administration;

Further noted, that the Naval Base has since relocated to Oghara, leaving the entire structure to waste but for the School which occupies only one fifth of the area;

Concerned, about the huge investment made by the Federal Government in building the Sea Port and its present state of disuse;

Worried, by the enormous loss of revenue to the Federal Government, as a result of this state of affairs;

Disturbed, that the abandonment of the Sea Port has compounded the unemployment problems amongst Youths and impeded the development potentials of the area;

Resolved to:

Mandate the House Committee on Marine Transport to undertake a facility tour of the Sapele Sea Port with a view to ascertaining the level of under utilisation and abandonment of the facilities and make appropriate recommendations to the House (HR. 02/2008).

7. Collapsed Ilasamaja Pedestrian Bridge Along Oshodi/Isolo Expressway Lagos and the Attendant Risk it Poses to Pedestrians.

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes, that on Friday 9th November, 2007 the pedestrian bridge at Ilasamaja was hit by a heavy duty truck which rendered the bridge unusable while the hanging debris of the half collapsed bridge is now endangering the lives of motorists and pedestrians;

Further notes, that Ilasamaja is a thickly populated area in Oshodi/Isolo Federal Constituency II, of Lagos State;

Informed, that on the 32nd: November, 2007, a Save Our Soul letter was sent to the Honourable Minister of Transportation (Works) requesting for the complete demolition of the remaining part of the collapsed bridge and for its immediate reconstruction.

54 Worried, that the Federal Ministry of Transportation (Works) is waiting until the owners of the truck make a commitment to repair the bridge;

Concerned, of the danger the half collapsed bridge has caused where 11 persons mostly school pupils were crushed to death while attempting to cross the expressway.

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation (Works) to as a matter of urgency undertake the demolition of the remaining part of the bridge and initiate action for its reconstruction while discussion with the truck owners is on-going;
- (ii) Mandate the House Committee on Works to monitor compliance of the above directive and report back to the House (*Hon. J. Jaiyeola Ajatta and 22 Others*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii) line 1, immediately after the word "Works" insert the word "and Legislative Compliance" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabianila*).

Question put and agreed to.

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

The House:

Noted, that on Friday 9th November, 2007 the pedestrian bridge at Ilasamaja was hit by a heavy duty truck which rendered the bridge unusable while the hanging debris of the half collapsed bridge is now endangering the lives of motorists and pedestrians;

Further notes, that Ilasamaja is a thickly populated area in Oshodi/Isolo Federal Constituency II, of Lagos State;

Informed, that on the 12th November, 2007, a Save Our Soul letter was sent to the Honourable Minister of Transportation (Works) requesting for the complete demolition of the remaining part of the collapsed bridge and for its immediate reconstruction.

Worried, that the Federal Ministry of Transportation (Works) is waiting until the owners of the truck make a commitment to repair the bridge;

Concerned, of the danger the half collapsed bridge has caused where 11 persons mostly school pupils were crushed to death while attempting to cross the expressway.

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation (Works) to as a matter of urgency undertake the demolition of the remaining part of the bridge and initiate action for its reconstruction while discussion with the truck owners is on-going;
- (ii) Mandate the House Committees on Works and Legislative Compliance to monitor compliance of the above directive and report back to the House (BR. 03/2008).

8. Outstanding Bill from the Preceding Assembly:

A Bill for an Act to Establish an Independent National Assembly Budget and Research Office, which will provide the National Assembly objective, timely and Non-Partisan analysis needed for economic and Budget decision and the information and estimates required for use in the Budget Process; and Other Related Matters, 2008 (HB. 26).

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do comply with Order XV, Rule 8 of the Standing Orders to enable it reconsider the National Assembly Budget and Research Office Bill hitherto passed by the preceding Assembly to which Mr. President withheld assent (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly, referred to Committee of the whole.

9. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 24 January, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (**Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie**).

Adjourned accordingly at 4.30p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker