



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 14 February, 2008

1. The House met at 11.50 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read Prayers.
2. Late Commencement of Sitting:
Mr Deputy Speaker apologized and attributed the late commencement of the day's Sitting to the meeting of the Leadership of the House in respect of the harmonisation of the 2008 Appropriation Bill.
3. Votes and Proceedings:
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 13 February, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
4. Announcements:
 - (i) *Bereavement:*
Mr Deputy Speaker acquainted the House with the death of Hon. Justice J. O. Idahosa (*rtd*), the father of Hon. Ehiogie West-Idahosa, which occurred on February 7, 2008 at the age of 84.

A Minute in silence was observed in honour of the deceased.
 - (ii) *Visitors:*
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the presence in the Gallery, of staff and students of Parker International High School, Akure, Ondo State.
5. Petitions:
Two petitions were received and referred to Committee on Public Petitions:
 - (i) Hon. Austin Nwachukwu (*Ehime Mbano/Ihilte Ubowo Federal Constituency*), from Ms Onyeagwu Udo, praying the House to intervene in the alleged wrongful termination of her appointment by the Nigeria Immigration Service and grant the redress sought;
 - (ii) Hon. Kalu I. Uduma (*Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*), from Hon. Dr Samson U. Orji, praying the House to intervene in the alleged cover-up by the Abia State Police Command in the investigation of the murder of Mr Okorukwu Ogbabe with a view to seeing that justice is done.
6. Conferment of National Honour on the Hon. Speaker:
Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that the Hon. Speaker was being conferred with the National Honour of the Federal Republic (CFR), at the same time the House was sitting. He read the following goodwill message:

BANKOLE — THE SPEAKER OF ALE SPEAKERS

A Yoruba adage says that "if a child knows how to wash his hands well, he will dine with elders".

OLADMEJI SABUF BANKOLE, young, dynamic, and a politician per excellence learnt early in life how to wash his hands. Now, he is not only dinning with elders, but also with Kings, Queens, Presidents, Prime Ministers, Royal Highnesses, Lords Temporal and Spiritual. This new "kid on the block", as he was fondly addressed by the Queen of England on 4th January, 2008 — became the Speaker of the House of Representatives when things fell apart and the centre could no longer hold.

The events of August to November 2007 that strangled the activities of the House of Representatives are now history. Bankole emerged at the time the House needed a leader, a focused individual with the dynamism and agility of youth — who could steer the House in the right direction. Since Bankole met with fate and was elected Speaker of the House on 1st November, 2007, he has introduced into the House a new meaning of leadership. He has redefined the role of Speaker and injected the House with energy, vibrancy and taught the House how to laugh again.

Today, 14 February, 2008, the day that this Speaker of Speakers was bestowed with a national award of CFR, marks another turning point in the life of our amiable Speaker. We are indeed honoured collectively as a House, and we identify with him and wish him more honours, greater energy and deeper wisdom to continue to lead the House of Representatives in its strive to perform its constitutional role and live up to the expectations of all Nigerians.

He, thereafter, called on Hon. Members who wished to speak to do so. (Details in Official Reports).

7. **Nigerian Delegation to the 11th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Nigerian Delegation to the 11th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference" (Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

8. **Adjournment:**
That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 19 February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.05 p.m.

Usman Bayero Nafada
Deputy Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 13 February, 2008:

On page 304, Pan II A — Annual Basic Salary for Judicial Officers (Federal and States), in line 14, *leave out* the figures "**N1,940,095.55**" and *insert* the figures "N1,995,430.18" instead thereof