



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 19 February, 2008

1. The House met at 11.10 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 14 February, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

House in Executive Session — 11.15 a.m.

House in Plenary — 12.00 p.m.

3. Oaths of Allegiance and Membership:
Member-elect, Oyetunji Paul Omotayo (*Akinyele/Lagelu Federal Constituency, Oyo State*), took and subscribed the Oaths as required by law.
4. Message:
Mr Speaker read a Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

PRESIDENT,

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

15th February, 2008

*The Rt. Honourable Dimeji Bankole,
Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Excellency and dear brother,

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ADVISERS

I had sent a request on June 1st, 2007 to the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for approval of fifteen (15) Special Advisers to assist me in the performance of my functions. The Senate graciously granted my request vide a formal notification dated 29th June, 2007, on the basis of which I have gone ahead and appointed seven (7) Special Advisers.

It has, however, been brought to my notice that the request should have been directed to both Houses of the National Assembly. This was an inadvertent oversight, for which I crave the indulgence of the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Pursuant to Section 151 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which confers on me powers to appoint Special Advisers to assist me in the performance of my functions, and Section 151 (2) which confers on the National Assembly the power to prescribe, "by law or by resolution", "the number of such Advisers and their remuneration and allowances", I hereby request the House of Representatives to approve for me to appoint up to 15 number Special Advisers.

I crave the kind indulgence of the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives to accord this request your usual expeditious attention.

Best regards,

*(Signed) UMARU MUSA
YAR'ADUA*

Message referred to the Committee on Special Duties for further legislative action.

5. Announcements:

(i) Visitors:

Mr Speaker recognised the presence in the Gallery, of the Staff and Students of St Bartholomew Daycare, Nursery and Primary School, Kubwa.

(ii) Constituency/Jurisdiction Tasking:

(a) *Imminent Threat to Shell Operations in Okordia and Zarama Communities in Yenagoa Local Government Area, Bayelsa State:*

Mr Speaker mandated Hon. Warman Ogoriba (*Yenagoa/K/Opokuma Federal Constituency*), to mediate between Shell and the above-named Communities, in view of reports of threats of imminent disruptions of Shell Flow Stations and Installations in Okordia and Zarama Communities in Yenagoa LGA. The indigenes were reacting to the breach of an earlier agreement by Shell to electrify their communities simultaneously, instead of in phases as being currently done by Shell. Hon. Warman Ogoriba is to brief him on the developments.

(b) *Threat to Disrupt the Operations of SAIPEM by Youths of Epie/Atissa Clans in Yenagoa Local Government Area, Bayelsa State:*

Mr Speaker further mandated Hon. Warman Ogoriba (*Yenagoa/K/Opokuma Federal Constituency*), to reach out to the irate Youth leaders of Epie/Atissa Clans in Yenagoa Local Government Area, threatening to disrupt the operations of SAIPEM (a contracting firm to Shell) over the firm's failure to effect full payment of the Seventy Million Naira (N70 Million) earmarked by Shell for the building of classroom blocks in the community. Hon. W. Ogoriba should prevail on the youths to exercise restraint, urge Shell to expedite action on the balance payment and report back to Mr Speaker on the developments.

(c) *Threat to Disrupt the Operations of Daewoo Company in Andoweri and Unbugbene Communities in the Southern Ijaw Local Government Area, Bayelsa State:*

Mr Speaker directed Hon. Donald Egberibin (*Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency*), as a follow-up on the Resolution of the last South-South Hon. Members Conference, to appeal to the Youths of the above-named Communities that were threatening to attack DEAWOO Company in retaliation over the invasion of the Community by men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on 16th December, 2007.

(d) *Itsekiri Youths threatens Disruption of Production Activities of Chevron Nigeria in Warri, Delta State:*

Mr Speaker also directed Hon. Daniel Oritse G. Reyeniju (*Warri North/Warn South/Warn West Federal Constituency*), to reach out to members of the Itsekiri Graduates Association (IGA) threatening a showdown with Chevron Oil Plc over allegations of non-employment of their members by Chevron, and initiate a process of dialogue that would lead to the resolution of the problem. Mr Speaker added that Chevron should be advised to commence a data collation of the credentials of the IGA members for possible employment. Hon. D. Reyeniju should brief the Speaker on subsequent developments.

- (e) *Threat of Strike Action by the Academics Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Non-Academics Staff Union of Universities over the sacked Lecturers of the Universities of Ilorin:*
Mr Speaker directed Hon. **Farouk** Lawan, Chairman Committee on Education to mediate and dialogue with the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU)/Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU) a view to resolving the impasse over the demand for the reinstatement of the sacked lecturers of University of Ilorin.
- (f) *Demand for improved welfare packages by the employees of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), under the aegis of the National Union of Electrical Employees (NUEE):*
Mr Speaker directed Hon. Ndudi Elumelu, Chairman. Committee on Power and Steel to take cognisance of the grievances of the agitating workers of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) over poor salary and welfare packages in the Committee's on-going investigation of the power sector.
- (g) *Warning Strike Action by Medical Staff of Federal Health Centres Nationwide:*
Mr Speaker mandated Hon. Alaba **Ojomo**, Chairman, Committee on Health to initiate a prompt intervention in the warning strike action by the Medical Staff of Federal Health Centres, which commenced on the 13th of February, 2008.
- (h) *Threat to Disrupt the Operation of Shell Company at Utorogu Oil Field in Ughelli South Local Government Area, Delta State:*
Mr Speaker mandated Hon. Tarn Brisbe, Chairman, Committee on Petroleum (Upstream) and Hon. Igo Aguma, Chairman, Committee on Gas Resources to wade into the imminent crisis between Shell and its affected host communities comprising Otor, Uduik, Iwhrekam and Otughievwemthan, Ugheli South LGA of Delta State over Shell's poor social responsibility and development of the area.
- (i) *Disaffection over Abandoned Dam Project in Biu Local Government Area, Adamawa State:*
Mr Speaker, in view of reports of growing disaffection among the people of Biu Local Government Area over the non-completion of the Bui Dam — a Federal Government project, directed Hon. Terngu Tsegba, Chairman, Committee on Water Resources, to initiate an investigation into the prolonged delay in the completion of the dam.
- (j) *Deplorable State of Secondary Schools in Bama Local Government Area, Borno State:*
Mr Speaker directed Hon. Baba Gana Tijjani (Bama/Ngala/Kalabalge Federal Constituency) to liaise with the Borno State **Ministry** of Education for the purpose of **initiating** investigations into allegations of poor provision of basic amenities and food in some boarding schools. The affected schools include:
- (i) Government Girls Secondary School, Bama;
 - (ii) Senior Science Secondary School, Bama: (iii)
 - Government Technical College, Bama; (iv)
 - Government Secondary School, Gulumba; (v)
 - Government Day Secondary School, Bama. Hon. Tijjani
- should update Mr Speaker on the findings.
- (k) *Palpable Tension in Angwan Muazu, Kaduna South Local Government Area, Kaduna State:*
Mr Speaker directed Hon. Mustapha Sani Haliru to urgently contact the Kaduna State Inter-Religious Committee as well as the Chief Imam of Angwan Muazu Mosque with a view to averting a possible religious clash, in view of the brewing conflict between Christians and Muslims in the community.

(I) *Threat of Clash between Fulanis and Jukuns in Wukari Local Government Area, Taraba State:*

Mr Speaker directed Hon. Ishaka Bawa (*Ibi/Wukari Federal Constituency*) to lead other Hon. Members from Taraba State and contact Taraba State Government and Traditional Rulers, with a view to averting the imminent ethnic clash between the Fulanis and the Jukuns in Wukari Local Government Area of the State.

6. Petitions:

Ten Petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

- (i) Hon. Eze Chukwudi Mayor (*Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*), from Orient Properties Development Company Limited, urging the House to revoke the concession agreement granted the Bank of Industry (BOI) and grant other reliefs sought in the petition;
- (ii) Hon. Eze Chukwudi Mayor (*Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*), from Vin Ifedioramma Osakwe & Co. on behalf of Edmack Nigeria Limited, urging the House to investigate the alleged gross inefficiency of Messrs A.P. Moller in the discharge, handling and transfer of Containers from Apapa Quays to Bonded Warehouses and the attendant congestion at the Terminal;
- (iii) Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (*Yobo/Shagari Federal Constituency*), from Ogodo, Ogodo and Co. on behalf of Adoga Ikwuagwa, praying the House to intervene in the alleged banishment of the family and destruction of their property by certain named person and grant other reliefs sought therein;
- (iv) Hon. Juliet Akano (*Nkwerre/Nwangele/Isu/Njabu Federal Constituency*), from Andrew C. Nkpadobi, praying the House to impress upon the National Institute of Cultural Orientation to implement the recommendation of the Public Complaints Commission;
- (v) Hon. Zakari Yau Galadima (*Bade/Jakusko Federal Constituency*), from Abubakar Bukar, praying the House to investigate the alleged wrongful termination of his appointment by the Nigeria Police Force and redress the situation;
- (vi) Hon. Akeem Arole Fancy (*Surulere II Federal Constituency*), from A. C. Dominic-Kalio Esq., praying the House to investigate the alleged wrongful termination of his appointment by the National Human Right Commission;
- (vii) Hon. Chukwuka Onyema (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*), from K. A. Nwakuche Esq., on behalf the Umunzerabi Kindred of Ogwu Aniocha Ogbaru Local Government Area, seeking the intervention of the House and to urge Shell to obey a Court Ruling and see that justice is done;
- (viii) Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi (*Ezeagu/Udi Federal Constituency*), from Okolo Emmanuel U. D, seeking the intervention of the House in his alleged wrongful severance from the services of the National Directorate of Employment;
- (ix) Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi (*Ezeagu/Udi Federal Constituency*), from Jacinta Uden and 47 others, praying the House to intervene in the alleged wrongful termination of their appointment from the services of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Enugu;
- (x) Hon. Mikail Bmitosahi (*Chanchaga Federal Constituency*), from Surajo Lawal and 79 others, praying the House to intervene in the alleged non-payment of their gratuities by the Upper Niger River Basin Development Authority, Minna.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Relying on Order VIII, Rule 4, Hon. Patrick Ikhariale drew the attention of the House to recent publications in Nigerian Newspapers reporting the killings of officers of the Nigeria Police Force in their duty posts by armed robbers. He sought the leave of the House to allow him present the matter as one of urgent national importance the next Legislative Day.

Question put and agreed to.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day.

8. **Presentation of Bills:**

(i) National Sports Commission Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

(ii) Financial Reporting Councils of Nigeria Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.* (iii)

Desertification (Control) Commission Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

9. **Presentation of Reports:**

Committee on Aviation:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Aviation on the Deplorable State of Maiduguri and Kaduna international Airports and adverse effects on the Airlift of Pilgrims from these Airports" (Hon. Mohammed Bawa).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

10. **Extension of Sitting:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do extend the Day's Sitting to enable it deliberate on the other items on the Order Paper" (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Question put and agreed to.

11. (a) **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Tobacco Smoking (Control) Act to provide for certain increase in the excise duty and other taxes on Tobacco Products, prohibit the Giving of donations of Philanthropic gesture for any cause by Tobacco producers, designate areas where Tobacco products may and may not be smoked in hotels, transportation system, etc. and other Matters Relating Thereto, 2008 — Second Reading:**

Motion made Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Tobacco Smoking (Control) Act to provide for certain increase in the excise duty and other taxes on Tobacco Products, prohibit the Giving of donations of Philanthropic gesture for any cause by Tobacco producers, designate areas where Tobacco products may and may not be smoked in hotels, transportation system, etc. and other Matters Relating Thereto, 2008 be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Bassey Etim).

(b) **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the regulation of the production, importation, advertising, promotion, sponsorship, distribution, sale and smoking of cigarettes and other Tobacco products and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading:**

Motion made Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the regulation of the production, importation, advertising, promotion, sponsorship, distribution, sale and smoking of cigarettes and other Tobacco products and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Bassey Etim).

Debate:

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

Bills consolidated and read the Second Time and referred to the Joint Committee on Health and Justice.

12. **A Bill for An Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of Nigeria to Provide for the Control of its Membership and to Promote and Foster the Practice of the Arts and Science of Cost and Management Accountancy in the Federation and for Other Purposes Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading:**

Order read, deferred.

House in Executive Session — 1.52 p.m.

House in Plenary — 3.00 p.m.

13. **Adjournment:**

And it being 3.04 p.m. the House adjourned till Wednesday, 20 February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker