



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 6 February, 2008

1. The House met at 2.50 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, 5 February, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

- 3- Announcements:
 - (a) *Country Review Mission of the African Peer Review Mechanism:*
Mr Speaker read a letter from Hon. Sada Soli **Jibia**. Chairman, Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa, notifying the House that the Country Review Mission (CRM) of the African Peer Review Mechanism has arrived Nigeria to carry out an external validation of the Country between February 3 and March 2, 2008.

The Team would be interacting with **the** Hon. Members of the House in Conference Hall 028 New Building, on Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. He enjoined all Hon. Members of the House to participate, particularly Members of the following relevant Committees;

- (i) Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa;
 - (ii) Committee on National Planning;
 - (iii) Committee on Appropriations;
 - (iv) Committee on Public Accounts;
 - (v) Committee on States and Local Government;;
 - (vi) Committee on Poverty Alleviation;
 - (vii) Committee on Millennium Development Goals.
- (b) *Visitors:*
Mr Speaker announced the presence in the Gallery, of Staff and Students of the Islamic Training Centre, Madalla, Niger State.

4. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. Eze Chukwudi Leonard (*Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*), from Mrs Chinyere Anyiam, praying the House to investigate the alleged unlawful termination of her appointment by the Management of Unity Bank of Nigeria Plc and redress the injustice;
- (ii) Hon. Eze Chukwudi Leonard (*Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*), from Captain Edem Ebong, praying the House to investigate a case of unbudgeted contract in Nigeria Maritime Administrations and Safety Agency (NIMASA);
- (iii) Hon. Ganiyu Tunji Olukolu (*Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency*), from Mr A.O. Braimel, praying the House to investigate his unlawful dismissal from the Federal Civil Service by the Federal Civil Service Commission with a view to reinstating him;
- (iv) Hon. Samuel Sajoro (*Badagry Tredural Federal Constituency*), from Mr Adebisi Omoyemi, praying the House to investigate the alleged forceful bid to acquire WEMA Bank Plc by Mr Tunde Lemo;
- (v) Hon. Patty Etete (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*), from Lt. M. Jibril, praying the House to investigate his premature retirement from the Nigerian Army and redress the injustice meted on him.

5. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

Pursuant to Order VIII, Rule (4) (1) (3) the following matters were brought before the House:

- (i) Hon. Mohammed Bello Suleiman having drawn the attention of the House to the dismal performance of the National Team at the on-going Africa Nations Cup in Ghana, sought the leave of the House to move a Motion for the House to discuss the Matter as one of urgent national importance.

Question that the matter be considered as one of Urgent Public Importance, put and negatived

- (ii) Hon. Babagana Tijani drew the attention of die House to the influx of Chadians refugees into his Constituency (*Bama/Ngala/Kalabalge Federal Constituency, Borno State*) stating mat the situation was already getting out of hand. He therefore urged the House to consider it as a matter of Urgent Public Importance.

Question that the matter be taken as one of Urgent Public Importance, put and agreed to.

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

6. Payment from the Federation Account of Excess Crude Oil Revenue to States in US Dollars:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that the official currency of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is the Nigerian Naira:

Further notes that the Central Bank of Nigeria has recently proposed the allocation of \$4,017 Billion of excess Crude Oil Revenue to be paid to Federal, States and Local Governments in US Dollars;

Concerned that by so doing, the Nigerian Naira, Which is the official currency of the Federal Republic of Nigeria would be relegated and further weakened against other major currencies of the world;

Disturbed that the reality exhibited by this action is that of unpatriotism and disloyalty to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Nigerian Naira being a symbol of our sovereignty as an independent Nation;

Resolves to:

Urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to refrain from distributing Federation Accounts Allocations to Federal, States and Local Governments in US Dollars, or any other currency except the Nigerian Naira (Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume and 15 Others).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) Insert a new Prayer (if) as follows:
"that the Resolution be forwarded to the **Senate** for concurrence" (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question that amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (if) Insert a new Prayer (if) as follows:
"That the House invite the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Governor of Central bank of Nigeria (CBN) to explain to the House the Economic Political and Social benefits **of** the sharing of the Federations Account in Dollar" (*Hon. Overah Joyce*).

Question that amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (in) Insert a new Prayer (if) as follows:
"Urge the Central bank **of** Nigeria (CBN) to provide the House with economic consideration that will justify payment to States in US Dollar" (*Hon. Andrew Uchendu*).

Question that amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iv) Insert a new Prayer (if) as follows:
"To refer the Motion to **the** Joint Committee on Justice, Banking and Currency and Finance and report back to the House within one week" (*Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum*).

Question that amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main question, put and negatived.

7. Consolidation of two Bills of the Same Subject Matter (Order XII, Rule 14):

Motion made and Question proposed, "That, pursuant to Order XII, Rule 14, HB. 20 and HB. 28 be consolidated, as they relate to the same subject matter" (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question put and agreed to.

8. 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:

9. 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:

Orders read; deferred.

10. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 7 February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie*).

Adjourned accordingly at 5.25 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker