



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 20 February, 2008

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1. The House met at 11.15 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**  
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 19 February, 2008.  
  
*By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.*
3. **Presentation of Reports:**
  - (i) *Committee on Communications:*  
*Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Communications on the Decay of Services provided by the Global System Mobile Telecommunications (GSM) Service Providers<sup>1</sup> (Hon. Jerry Manwe).*  
  
*Question put and agreed to.*  
  
*Report Laid.*
  - (ii) *Committee on Ethics and Privileges:*  
*Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on the Breach of Legislative Privileges" (Hon. Florence Akinwale).*  
  
*Question put and agreed to.*  
  
*Report Laid.*
4. **Presentation of the Conference Report on the 2008 Appropriation Bill:**  
*Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Conference Report on the Appropriation Bill, 2008 (Hon. Festus A. Adegoke).*  
  
*Question put and agreed to.*  
  
*Report laid.*
5. **Privilege:**  
Rising on Order V, Rule 2, Hon. Dino Meiaye referred the House to a publication in the Financial Standard Newspaper of Monday, 18 February, 2008, which allegedly impugned on the integrity and image of the House, in respect of the statements credited to the General Counsel of the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE), Dr Paul Idomigie to the effect that "the BPE was not under any obligation to comply with the resolution of the House as it concerns the sale of the Delta Steel Company". Hon. Meiaye claimed that such a statement constituted a contempt of the House and breach of its privileges. He therefore sought the leave of the House to move a substantive motion on the matter.

*Leave granted.*

Resolutions of the House of Representatives:

The House:

*Notes* that the Resolution of the House of Representatives should have effect on all Nigerians, Government Agencies, Parastatals, Ministries, Private Companies, and Corporate Organizations;

*Further notes* that the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE), through its General Counsel ridiculed the powers and integrity of the House of Representatives by his comments in Financial Standard Newspaper of Monday, February 18, 2008;

*Concerned* that by so doing, the House of Representatives and its constitutional powers to make laws and resolutions have been abused;

*Disturbed* that this action was an affront on the House of Representatives and a deliberate attempt to undermine its constitutional powers;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) Write Mr President that the Resolution of the House be enforced;
- (ii) Invite the Director-General of BPE and Dr Paul Idomigie to appear before the Committee on Legislative Compliance, with a view to maintaining and sustaining the Constitutional Powers of the House (*Hon. Dino Melaye*).

*Debate:*

Amendment Proposed:

*Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

"Mandate the Committee on Ethics and Privileges to investigate the breach of privilege of the House" (*Hon. IgoAguma*).

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

*Main Question, as amended put and agreed to.* The House:

*Noted* that the Resolution of the House of Representatives should have effect on all Nigerians, Government Agencies, Parastatals, Ministries, Private Companies, and Corporate Organizations;

*Further noted* that the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE), through its General Counsel ridiculed the powers and integrity of the House of Representatives by his comments in Financial Standard Newspaper of Monday, February 18, 2008;

*Concerned* that by so doing, the House of Representatives and its constitutional powers to make laws and resolutions have been abused;

*Disturbed* that this action was an affront on the House of Representatives and a deliberate attempt to undermine its constitutional powers.

*Resolved to:*

- (i) Write Mr President that the resolution of the House be enforced;
- (ii) Invite the Director-General of BPE and Dr Paul Idomigie to appear before the Committee on Legislative Compliance, with a view to maintaining and sustaining the Constitutional Powers of the House;
- (iii) Mandate the Committee on Ethics and Privileges to investigate the breach of privilege of the House (*HR. 09/2008*).

6. Adoption of the Conference Report on the 2008 Appropriation Bill:

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

That the 2008 Appropriation Bill was passed by the House on Tuesday, 12 February, 2008 and transmitted to the Senate for concurrence;

The Senate passed the same Bill with some differential;

The Two Chambers met in Conference on Wednesday, 13 February, 2008 and adopted a harmonised version of the Bill;

A clean copy of the Conference Report is ready for adoption;

*Resolved:*

That the Conference Report on the 2008 Appropriation Bill, be adopted by this House {*Hon. Festus A. Adegoke*}.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Conference Report of the 2008 Appropriation Bill accordingly adopted (HR. 10/2008).*

7. Call for a Speedy Action on the Resettlement Plan for the Internally Displaced People of Bakassi:

*Motion made and Question proposed,*

The House:

*Notes* that on the 10th of October, 2002, the International Court of Justice in the Hague ceded Bakassi to the Republic of Cameroon;

*Aware* that the then President signed the Green Tree Treaty with utter disregard to the rule of the land;

*Further notes* that upon this development, a resettlement Committee was set up by the Obasanjo administration to work out modalities for the resettlement of the Bakassi people;

*Concerned* that the internally displaced people of Bakassi are still roaming like refugees in their own country, without food, shelter, basic sanitary health facilities, while some have lost their lives as a result of the unsteady harsh condition;

*Disturbed* that the general state of insecurity and uncertainty among the Bakassi people is on the increase, as a result of the fear of being subjected to inhuman treatment because of the delay in resettlement;

*Worried* that the One Billion Naira 2008 budgetary provision for the resettlement plan of the Bakassi people is grossly inadequate.

*Resolves to:*

- (7) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to help the internally displaced people of Bakassi to integrate in host community by speedily planning for and funding and programs to meet the resettlement needs of the Bakassi people;
- (ii) Urge the Federal Government to call on its Cameroon counterpart to put effort into protecting Bakassians left in the Republic of Cameroon;
- (iii) Urge that the one billion naira 2008 budgetary provision for the resettlement of the people of Baskassi be increased;
- (iv) Set up an *Ad-Hoc* Committee to visit the displaced people of Bakassi and report findings to the House in two (2) weeks;
- (v) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the people of Bakassi immediately (*Hon. Essien Ekpennyong Ayi and 33 Others*).

*Debate:*

Amendments Proposed:

- (/) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i) and *insert* the following words instead thereof:  
"urge the Federal Government to set up an *ad-hoc* committee for the resettlement of the Bakassi people" (*Hon. Andrew Uchendu*).

*Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.*

- (ii) In Prayer (iv), line 1, *leave out* the words "set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee" and *insert* the words "Mandate the Committee on Special Duties" instead thereof.

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

- (iii) In Prayer (v), line 2, after the word "immediately" *insert* the words "direct Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to be involved in the resettlement of the Bakassi people" (*Hon. David Idoko*).

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

- (iv) *insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:  
"urge the Federal Government to declare the Bakassi area, a special development area and to attract special funding for the next few years" (*Hon. Sakonte Davies*).

*Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.*

- (v) ' *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:  
"urge the Federal Government to declare a state of economic/social emergency for the Bakassi people, to give adequate, necessary and sufficient provision, to integrate the Bakassi people, into the Nigerian society once again" (*Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale*).

*Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived. Main*

*Question, as amended put and agreed to. The House:*

*Noted* that on the 10th of October, 2002, the International Court of Justice in the Hague ceded Bakassi to the Republic of Cameroon;

*Aware* that the then President signed the Green Tree Treaty with utter disregard to the rule of the land;

*Further noted* that upon this development, a resettlement Committee was set up by the Obasanjo administration to work out modalities for the resettlement of the Bakassi people;

*Concerned* that the internally displaced people of Bakassi are still roaming like refugee in their own country without food, shelter, basic sanitary health facilities, while some had lost their lives as a result of the unsteady harsh condition;

*Disturbed* that the general state of insecurity and uncertainty among the Bakassi people is on the increase, as a result of the fear of being subjected to inhuman treatment because of the delay in resettlement;

*Worried* that the One Billion Naira 2008 budgetary provision for the resettlement plan of the Bakassi people is grossly inadequate.

*Resolved to:*

- (i) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to help the internally displaced people of Bakassi to integrate in host community by speedily planning for and funding and programs to meet the resettlement needs of the Bakassi people;
- (ii) Urge the Federal Government to call on its Cameroon counterpart to put effort into protecting Bakassians left in the Republic of Cameroon;
- (iii) Urge that the one billion naira 2008 budgetary provision for the resettlement of the people of Baskassi be increased;

- (iv) Mandate the Committee on Special Duties to visit the displaced people of Bakassi and report findings to the House in two (2) weeks;
- (v) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the people of Bakassi immediately and direct the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to be involved in the resettlement of the Bakassi people (**HR. 11/2008**).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Certain Political, Public and Judicial Office Holders (Salaries and Allowances, etc.) Act, 2002 and Other Matters Connected Therein, 2008 — Third Reading:**  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Certain Political, Public and Judicial Office Holders (Salaries and Allowances, etc.) Act, 2002 and Other Matters Connected Therein, 2008, be now read the Third **Time** (*Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie*).

*Question that the Bill be now read the Third Time, put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

9. **Adoption of Votes and Proceedings:**  
*Motion made*, "That this House do adopt the Votes and Proceedings of This Day, Wednesday, 20 February, 2008" (*Hon Ita Enang*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

10. **Adjournment:**  
That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 27 February, 2008 **at 2.00p.m.** (*Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie*).  
*Adjourned accordingly at 12.25 p.m.*

**Dimeji Sabur Bankole**  
*Speaker*