



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 6 March, 2008

1. The House met at 11.08 a.m. Mr. Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that, he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 5 March, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcements:**
 - (i) **Visitors:**
Mr Speaker recognised the presence in the Gallery of. members of the National Association of Political Science Students, from the University of Jos.
 - (ii) **Bereavement:**
Mr Speaker announced the death of **Alh. Danladi**, the father of Hon. Nasidi Danladi, which occurred in the early hours of Thursday, 6 **March**, 2008.

A minute in silence was observed in honour of the deceased.
 - (iii) **Conferees:**
Mr Speaker named the following Conferees on 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:
 - (a) Hon. Ita Enang
 - (b) Hon. C.I.D. Maduabum
 - (c) Hon. M.T. Mongono
 - (d) Hon. George Daika
 - (e) Hon. Nasiru Garo
 - (f) Hon. Agoro Lanre
 - (g) Hon. Lynda **Ikpeazu**
 - (h) Hon. Mercy Almona-Isei
4. **Jurisdiction/Constituency Orders:**
Mr Speaker directed the following Hon. Members to meet with him **immediately** after the day's proceedings in respect of these urgent Constituency/Jurisdictional tasks:
 - (i) Hon. **Donald Egberibin** and Hon. Tam Bisibe (Threat of Attack on SPDC Row Station in **Bayelsa** State);
 - (ii) Hon. Suleiman Kokori Abdul and Hon. Bassey (Okene Crisis);

- (iii) Hon. Suleiman Kokori and Hon. Ndudi Elumelu (Violent Clash at Itakpe Iron Ore Mining);
- (iv) Hon. Anthony Madwatte (Imminent Violence in **Demsa** Local Government Area of Adamawa State);
- (v) Hon. Halims Agoda. Hon. Anthony Madwatte and Hon. Bashir **Adamu** (Protests **Against** Non-payment of Military Pension);
- (vi) Hon. Gbenga Makanjuola. Hon. Umar Faruk and Hon. Duro Faseyi, Chairmen of the Committees on Agriculture, National Security and Environment. (The Increasing Menace of Fulani Cattle Rearers and Farmers);
- (vii) Hon. Agboola Ajayi. Chairman of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) (Planned Mass Movement of Niger Delta Youths to Abuja);
- (viii) Hon. Jerry Manwe (Threat of Vandalization of Telephone Installations in Enugu State);
- (ix) Hon. Independence Ogunewe and Hon. **Njida** Gella (Planned Protest NUATE Over Proposed Privatisation of FAAN);
- (x) Hon. Baba Buka **Machinawa** and Hon. Lawan Mohammed **Kori** (Outbreak of Measles in Karasuwa and **Nangere** Local Governments Area. **Yobe** State);
- (xi) Hon. David Mzenia. Hon. **K. G. B. Oguakwa** and Hon. Albert **Tanimu** (Renewed Hostilities Between the Tivs in Benue State and Kutebs in Taraba State);
- (xii)' Hon. Umar Faruk, Chaimian of the House Committee on National Security and Intelligence (Public Outcry over similarities in the Uniform of Peace Corps of Nigeria (PCN) and Nigerian Army);
- (xiii) Hon. Abike Dabiri (Tension in Ijede and Oke-Egbin Villages in Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State);
- (xiv) Hon. Esem Sunday Eyiboh and Hon. Duro Taseyi (Threat of Coastal Encroachment in some Riverine Communities in Ibeno Local Government Area of Akwa-Ibom State);
- (AT) Hon. Leo Adejane. Hon. Kayode Idowu. Hon. Kolawole **Ismaila** and Hon. Busayo Oluwole Oke (Uneasy Reaction over Protracted Strike Action);
- {xvi} Hon. Danlami Hamzaand some Members from Kano State (Update on the Relocation of ECWA Church in Kano State);
- (xvii) Hon. Dave Salako and Hon. Yusuf Dunari (**Threat of Drug Peddlers** in Garbobo Town of **Kaugama** Local Government Area. Jigawa State);
- (xviii) Hon. Alaba Ojomo and Hon. Bassey Effiong Etim (Apprehension over Outbreak of Infections Among Children in Uyo);
- (xix) Hon. Ibrahim Chaichai (Outbreak of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis in dulse Local Government Area of Jigawa State).

5. **Petitions:**

The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

- (i) ' Hon. Dino Melaye (*Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency*), from the Nigerian Graduates of Latin American Medical School in Havana, praying the House to intervene and ensure that they proceed with their post-graduate specialisation programme for a good medical practice in Nigeria;
- (ii) Hon. Emeka Stanley (*Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency*), from Unaeze Adiele Jackson against the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) protesting his alleged unlawful disengagement from service and seeking reinstatement and proper placement in PHCN;

- (iii) Hon. Asita Honourable (*Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West Federal Constituency*), from SEEDS OF CHANGE Solicitors to Joinkrama I Community of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State praying the House to intervene in the case of Oil Spillage in their community, with a view to ensuring the payment of all due and outstanding compensation:
- (iv) Hon. Isa Usman Ambaka (*Akwanga/Nasarawa-Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency*), from Ali Isa. praying the House to investigate his alleged wrongful dismissal from **the** Nigeria Police Force, with a view to reinstating him as well as paying all outstanding entitlements;
- (v) Hon. Linda **Ikpeazu** (*Onitsha North and South Federal Constituency*), from A. A. Orunkoya and Co. on behalf of Arewa Transport Owners Association. Hausa Union Sellers Association. Big Yam Sellers Association, Oshogbo Park Owners Association. Gombe Maiduguri **Park** Owners Association and Wetuobi Park Owners Association, protesting the forceful ejection from their business premises and the killing of some of their members, and praying the House to intervene in the interest of justice and equity:
- (vi) Hon. Nelson Alapa (*Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency*), from Alh. Usman D.M. Abubakar seeking the **intervention** of the House in an alleged police intimidation, humiliation and harassment, with a view to calling the police to order and averting a degeneration of the situation:
- (vii) Hon. Nelson Alapa (*Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency*), from Mrs. Hadiza Alegi praying **the** House to intervene in the alleged refusal of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Sale of Government Houses to release the offer letter for the purchase of Flat 1. Block 7, Karu Site - FCT and to redress the situation.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Pursuant to Order 8, Rule 4(1) and (3), Hon. Paul Adah drew the attention of the House to the fact that about 500 persons in Abuochiche Bekwara Local Government Area of Cross Rivers State died as a result of eating Bean Cakes made of beans preserved with poisonous chemicals said to be preservative. He therefore urged the House to consider the issue as a matter of urgent public importance.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Matter to stand over til! the next Legislative Daw

7. Excessive Interest Rates/Charges on Loans/Services and Other Unethical Practices in the Nigerian Banking Industry:

Motion made and Question proposed.

The House:

Acknowledges the Banking Sector as the catalyst of socio-economic growth and development of any **country**;

Aware of the chequered and unpleasant developments in the history and evolution of Nigerian banking industry in the last two decades before the banking consolidation of 2005;

Observed the much advertised claims of excellent performances and jumbo profits announced annually by the consolidated banks:

Further observed that claims of impressive annual growth and profits by the banks do not translate to relative or even perceptible growth in the real sector of Nigerian economy;

Worried that Nigerian bank interest rates are the highest in the world;

Further worried that the failure and refusal of Nigerian Banks to engineer and regenerate growth and improvement in the real sector of the economy in order to address such issues as unemployment and poverty reduction is fueling skepticism about the reliability or otherwise of the claims of impressive growth and performance of banking sector;

Concerned that such Bank charges like **commission** on turn over (COT) on withdrawals and non withdrawals and flat charges **are** applicable only in Nigeria;

Disturbed by the reported cases of growing rate of **dormant** accounts in Nigerian banks and the negligence of the banks in taking measures necessary to reawakening the interest of the dormant account holders;

Further Disturbed by the policy of the banks in setting too high deposit targets for their staff especially the female ones whom in their desperation to achieve the targets are often vulnerable to undue pressure and temptations;

Bothered about the reported cases of non remittance of withholding tax on interest on deposits to the state Boards of Internal Revenue and Federal Inland Revenue Services and non issuance of withholding tax deduction advice So the concerned account holders;

Further bothered that Account holders complaints about aforementioned unfair practices are usually refereed . to and treated in disregard to the rules of natural justices by the Bankers Committee's Sub-Committee on Ethics and Professionalism having been composed mostly of representatives of the banks whose conducts are complained against;

Conscious of the urgent need to reassure the banking public and all stakeholders that the publicized claims of impressive annual performances by Nigerian banks are real and not fluke and to sustain the confidence of all concerned in the reliability of the claims and viability of the banks.

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the House Committee on Banking and Currency to carry out an investigative public hearing on all issues raised in this motion including particularly the issue of high bank interest rates and the difficulties of the real sector in obtaining bank loans/facilities;
- (if) Further mandate the Committee to cary out investigative scrutiny of the annual performance records/ statements of the banks from 2005 till dale in order to ascertain the reliability of the records and viability of the banks and report its findings and recommendations to the House (*Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi and 132 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In line 3, immediately after the word "rates" insert the words "charges of returned funds from over subscription of bank shares" (*Hon. Obinnu Chidoka*).

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

- in) Leave out **all** the words in Prayer (ii) (Hon. Dele Obadina).*

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

- (iii) Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows; ■■
"to investigate the seeming failure of the Central Bank of Nigeria CBN. Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation NDIC and other relevant Institutions in regulating and controlling the Banking Industry and hence the prevalence of all the observations above" (*Hon. Muhammed Sani Abdu*)

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Acknowledged the Banking Sector as the catalyst of socio-economic growth and development of any country;

Aware of the chequered and unpleasant developments in the history and evolution of Nigerian banking industry in the last two decades before the banking consolidation of 2005;

Observed the much advertised claims of excellent performances and jumbo profits announced annually by the consolidated banks;

Further observed that claims of impressive annual growth and profits by the banks do not translate to relative or even perceptible growth in the real sector of Nigerian economy;

Worried that Nigerian bank interest rates are the highest in the world;

Further worried that the failure and refusal of Nigerian Banks to engineer and regenerate growth and improvement in the real sector of the economy in order to address such issues as unemployment and poverty reduction is fueling skepticism about the reliability or otherwise of the claims of impressive growth and performance of banking sector;

Concerned that such Bank charges like commission on turn over (COT) on withdrawals and non withdrawals and Hal charges are applicable only in Nigeria;

Disturbed by the reported cases of growing rate of dormant accounts in Nigerian banks and the negligence of the banks in taking measures necessary to reawakening the interest of the dormant account holders;

Further Disturbed by the policy of the banks in setting too high deposit targets for their staff especially the female ones whom in their desperation to achieve the targets are often vulnerable to undue pressure and temptations;

Bothered about the reported cases of non remittance of withholding tax on interest on deposits to the state Boards of Internal Revenue and Federal Inland Revenue Services and non issuance of withholding tax deduction advice to the concerned account holders;

Further bothered that Account holders complaints about aforementioned unfair practices are usually refereed to and treated in disregard to the rules of natural justices by the Bankers Committee's Sub-Committee on Ethics and Professionalism having been composed mostly of representatives of the banks whose conducts are complained against;

Conscious of the urgent need to reassure the banking public and all stakeholders that the publicized claims of impressive annual performances by Nigerian banks are real and not fluke and to sustain the confidence of all concerned in the reliability of the claims and viability of the banks.

Resolved to;

Mandate the House Committee on Banking and Currency to carry out an investigative public hearing on all issues raised in this motion including particularly the issue of high bank interest rates, charges of returned funds from over subscription of bank shares and the difficulties real sector in obtaining bank loans/facilities (*HR. 12/2008*).

8. Anti Riot Policemen in a Killing Spree and Arson Attack **in Ogaminana Town in Adavi Local** Government Area of Kogi State: V
Motion made and Question proposed, .
 The House:

Notes that on Tuesday, 26 February, 2008 in a clash between some Youth and Anti-Riot Policemen invited by the owners of the detained trucks, resulted in the death of over 50 people including a policeman, in which more than 90 residential houses, 150 market stalls, 19 cars, 90 motorcycles and the Local Government Education Authority Office were set ablaze by the Police;

Disturbed that some Unarmed Youth in the area were protesting against the concession of the Itakpe Iron-Ore Mining Company to Global Infrastructure Holding Ltd (GIHL), accusing the company of not operating in accordance with the agreement with the Federal Government;

Worried that a peaceful protest by the unarmed Youth, which led to the detention of the six trucks conveying iron ore concentrates to Port Harcourt by the youth, further compounded a reprisal attack in the night by the policemen to avenge the death of their colleague by the unidentified Youth in the area;

Concerned that vehicular movement between the south and north of the country has been experiencing occasional disruption in the area, while commercial activities in the area have been put to a temporary halt due to the fracas;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the House Committee on Police Affairs to conduct a Public Hearing and establish the role played by the police in the incident and make appropriate recommendations;
- (ii) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected people and assist in rehabilitating them (*Hon. Abdulkareem Saliu and 28 Others*).

Debate:**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) Leave out all the provision in Prayer (i) and insert the following instead thereof:
"Mandate the House Committee on Police Affairs to investigate this incident and report to the House within 2 weeks (*Hon. Ifaluyi Isibor*)."

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

- (ii) Leave out **all the** words in Prayer (i) and insert the following instead thereof:
"Mandate the Joint Committee on Power and Steel, and Police Affairs to investigate the matter and report within two weeks" (*Hon. Sadiq Mohammed*)."

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iii) Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to convey the sympathy of the House, on the incident that led to loss of several lives and **properties** to the Government and people of Kogi State" (*Hon. Abdullahi U. Faruk*)."

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

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

Noted that on Tuesday, 26 February, 2008 in a clash between some Youth and Anti-Riot Policemen invited by the owners of the detained trucks, resulted in the death of over 50 people including a policeman, in which more than 90 residential houses, 150 market stalls, 19 cars, 90 motorcycles and the Local Government Education Authority Office were set ablaze by the Police;

Disturbed that some Unarmed Youth in the area were protesting against the concession of the Itakpe Iron-Ore Mining Company to Global Infrastructure Holding Ltd (GIHL), accusing the company of not operating in accordance with the agreement with the Federal Government;

Worried that a peaceful protest by the unarmed Youth, which led to the detention of the six trucks conveying iron ore concentrates to Port Harcourt by the youth, further compounded a reprisal attack in the night by the policemen to avenge the death of their colleague by the unidentified Youth in the area;

Concerned that vehicular movement between the south and north of the **country** has been experiencing occasional disruption in the area, while commercial activities in the area have been put to a **temporary** halt due to the fracas:

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the House Committee on Police Affairs to investigate this incident and report to the House within 2 weeks;
- (ii) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected people and assist in rehabilitating them;
- (iii) Mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to convey the sympathy of the House, on the incident that led to loss of several lives and properties to the Government and people of Kogi State (*HR. 13/2008*).

9. **A Bill for An Act to Repeal the Nigerian Accounting Standards Board Act. No. 22 of 2003 and Enact the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act and for Related Matters, 2008** — *Second Reading: Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for An Act to Repeal the Nigerian Accounting Standards Board Act, No. 22 of 2003 and Enact the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act and for Related Matters be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Gbenga Onigboji*).

Debate:

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to The Committee of Whole,

10. Consideration of Reports:

(i) Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory and Housing and Habitat:

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Joint Committee on Federal Capital **Territory** and Housing and Habitat on the Investigation of the Revocation of Sale of Federal Government Houses to Civil Servants and approve the Recommendations Therein" (Hon. Atai AidokoAli).*

Question put and agreed to.

*Question that the House do resolve into The Committee of Whole **to** consider **the** Report — Agreed to.*

*Question that Order VII, Rule 2 {2} be suspended to enable Mr Speaker preside **in** the Committee of Whole, **put** and agreed **to**.*

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Speaker on the Chair)

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
AND HOUSING AND HABITAT ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE REVOCATION
OF SALE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HOUSES TO CIVIL SERVANTS

Recommendation (i):

*"that the Hon. Minister, Federal Capital Territory Administration be commended for complying **with the** House of Representatives Resolution" (Hon. Atai Aidoko Ait).*

Question put and negatived.

Recommendation (ii):

*"**that** since the Federal Capital **Territory** Administration has complied with the Resolution of the House of Representatives, the Administration should go ahead with the walk-in-100% cash sale of the remaining houses" (Hon. Atai Aidoko Ali).*

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

*"that all other Federal Government Agencies should emulate the Federal Capital **Territory** Administration (FCTA) by complying with the Resolutions of the House of Representatives" (Hon. Atai Aidoko Ali).*

Question put and negatived.

Chairman to report Proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker **in** the Chair, reported that the House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory and Housing and Habitat on the Investigation of the Revocation of Sale of Federal Government Houses to Civil Servants and deleted Recommendation (i), approved Recommendation (ii) and deleted Recommendation (iii).

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Whole, put and agreed to.

(ii) Joint Committee on Aid, Loans and Debt Management, Finance and Appropriations:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Joint Committee on Aid, Loans and Debt Management, Finance and Appropriations on the partial Debt Write-off by Nigeria to Consolidate Peace Process and Facilitate Reconstruction in Liberia and approve the Recommendation" (Hon. Abdulaziz A. Yari).

Question put and agreed to.

*Question that **the** House do resolve **into** the Committee of **Whole to** consider the Report — Agreed to.*

*Question that Order VII, Rule 2 (2) be suspended to enable **the** Speaker preside in the **Committee of Whole**, put and agreed to.*

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Speaker on the Chair)

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON AID, LOANS AND DEBT
MANAGEMENT, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS ON THE PARTIAL DEBT
WRITE-OFF BY NIGERIA TO CONSOLIDATE PEACE PROCESS AND
FACILITATE RECONSTRUCTION IN LIBERIA

Recommendation :

That in view of the current state of the existing cordial relations between Nigeria and Liberia, the Joint Committee considered Mr. President's proposal to be in order and recommend that the Partial Debt write-off of \$13 million (Thirteen Million Dollars) as Nigeria's contribution to Liberia's debt relief should be approved (*Hon. Abdidaziz A. Yari*).

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman to report Proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the Joint Committee on Aid. Loans and Debt Management, Finance and Appropriations on the Partial Debt Write-off by Nigeria to Consolidate Peace Process and Facilitate Reconstruction in Liberia and approved the Recommendation therein.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Whole, put and agreed to.

11. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 11 March, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.35 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker