



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 8 April, 2008

1. The House met at 10.49 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 18 March, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**
 - (a) *Appreciation:*
 - (i) Mr Deputy Speaker read a letter from Hon. Mohammed Bello Suleiman, in which he expressed appreciation to all the Hon. Members who stood by him in various ways on the occasion of the death of his wife and two daughters in a fatal motor accident;
 - (ii) Mr Deputy Speaker also read a letter from Hon. Saad M. C. Tahir expressing his appreciation to Hon. Members who joined him in his moment of grief at the burial of his father, Alhaji M. C. Dahiru.
 - (b) *Transition:*
Mr Deputy Speaker announced as follows:
 - (f) the death of Hon. (Obong) Samson Udo Idiong, Member, House of Representatives, 1959 - 1964. He was buried on Friday, 28 March, 2008.
 - (ii) the death of Sir V. U. O. Maduabum, father of Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum, which occurred on Monday, 24 March, 2008. He would be buried on Friday, 2 May, 2008 at his country home in Ukpok, Nnewi South Local Government Area, Anambra State.

A minute in silence was observed in respect of the deceased.

4. **Privilege:**
Rising on Order V, Rules 1 and 4, the Minority Leader, Hon. Ali Ndume drew the attention of the House to a publication in *ThisDay Newspaper* Edition of Tuesday 8 April 2008 titled "Fear of Budget Scandal Grips National Assembly". The article, in his opinion erroneously blamed the delay in the passage of the 2008 Appropriation Bill on the National Assembly. He stated that it is the constitutional duty of the National Assembly to thoroughly examine budget estimates presented by the Executive and effect any necessary amendment, before passing the Bill into law. He therefore viewed the report, credited to the Executive, that the delay was due to "padding of the budget by the National Assembly" as a breach of the privilege of the House and called on the House to resolve into an Executive Session to deliberate on the matter.

Debate:

Question that the House do resolve into an Executive Session, put and agreed to

House in Executive Session — 11.33 a. m.

House in Plenary — 1.05 p. m.

Mr Deputy Speaker read the Resolutions of the House during the Executive Session as follows:

- (i) *to invite the Hon. Minister of Finance to appear before the Joint Committee on Finance, Appropriations, National Planning, Due Process and Justice on Thursday, 10 April, 2008 at 2.00 p.m.*
- (ii) *the House reaffirmed its awareness that the Executive and the National Assembly are both working towards the common goal of improving the welfare of Nigerians in this budget, and reiterated the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving this goal.*

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Order **VIII**, Rule **4**, Hon Farouk Lawan (*PDP - Shanono/Bagwai Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the recent Boat disaster in Bagwai Local Government Area of Kano State, in which several lives of Nigerians were lost. He viewed the incident as one of urgent national importance. He sought the leave of the House to discuss the matter as one of urgent public importance

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) to enable it consider the matter forthwith, put and negatived.

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

6. Presentation of Bill:

Fines (Penalty Units) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

7. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 9 April, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.25 p.m.

Usman Bayero Nafada
Deputy Speaker