



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 16 April, 2008

-
1. The House met at 2.30 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, 15 April, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
 3. **Jurisdictional/Constituency Orders:**
Mr Speaker directed the following Hon. Members to meet him immediately after the day's proceedings in respect of these underlisted Urgent Constituency/Jurisdictional tasks:
 - (i) Hon. Esemé Sunday Eyiboh (Threat to operations of Exxon-Mobil by coalition of youths in Ibeno Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State);
 - (ii) Hon. Modu Alhaji Musa and Hon. Wole Oke (Palpable fear among the people of Baga in Kukawa Local Government Area over siting of Military Magazine within residential quarters, Borno State);
 - (iii) Hon. Solomon Ahwinahwi and Hon. Duro Faseyi (Violent Protest by Ekakpamre Community in Ughelli South Local Government Area in Delta State over alleged toxic pollution by Beta Glass Pic);
 - (iv) Hon. Ibrahim Yushau'Kanya (Residents of Jobi village in Jigawa State alleged decry Alienation of their Community);
 - (v) Hon. Peter Linus Umoh (Tension in Effiat Community, Mbo Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State over activities of rival groups);
 - (vi) Hon. Clever Ikisikpo and Hon. Tarn Brisibe (Cry out over abandoned pits by Agip Oil in Oruama Community, Ogba Local Government Area of Bayelsa State);
 - (vii) Hon. Emeka Ihedioha (Planned indefinite Strike by the Nigeria Labour Congress in Imo State slated to commence on 15th April, 2008);
 - (viii) Hon. Eziuche Ubani (threat to operations of Geometric Power Limited in Osisoma Local Government Area of Abia State);
 - (ix) Hon. Jerry Manwe (Agitations by Nigeria Telecommunication (**NITEL**) Staff);
 - (x) Hon. Daniel Oritse Reyeniju, Hon. Solomon Ahwinahwi, Hon. Mercy Almona-Isei and Hon. Tarn Brisibe (Planned Disruption of operations at **Warri** Refinery by host Communities).

4. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. A. Ado Garba (***Dogwuwa/Tudunwada Federal Constituency***), from Ibrahim AH, praying the House to intervene in the non-compliance of Court Order by the Nigerian Police Force;
- (ii) Hon. Solomon Agidani (*Apa-Agatu Federal Constituency*), from Mr Oicho Akogwu and 7 Others, praying the House to prevail on the management of Nigeria Airspace Management Agency (NAM A) to either regularise their appointments as contract **staff** or pay them **off**;
- (iii) Hon. Overah Onofekohwo Joyce (*Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency*), from Mr Sunie Ekpertubu, praying the House to investigate an act of negligence on the part of Celtel (Nig.) Limited which led to the loss of his means of livelihood. He therefore urged the House to cause Celtel (Nigeria) Limited to pay for all the damages and losses he suffered as a result of this negligence;
- (iv) Hon. Abike Dabiri (*Ikorodu Federal Constituency*), from Mr N. A. Giwa, praying the House to prevail on the Management of the Nigerian Telecommunications Ltd (NITEL) to pay him N50,000,000.00 compensation in order to be properly rehabilitated since the accident he sustained in the course of his duties had incapacitated him;
- (v) Hon. Abike Dabiri (*Ikorodu Federal Constituency*), from Mr Michael F. Oduniyi, praying the House to investigate his retrenchment by the management of the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company Limited and cause his reinstatement;
- (vi) Hon. James Idachaba (*Idah/Ibaji/Igalamela/Ofu Federal Constituency*), from Corbe (Nigeria) Limited, praying the House to intervene and cause the management of the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company Limited to uphold its successful bid to supply a hologram machine to the minting company.

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Relying on Order VIII, Rule 4 (1), Hon. Gbenga Oduwaye drew the attention of the House to the upsurge in armed robbery attacks and indiscriminate shooting of Nigerian visitors and residents in South Africa and urged the House to consider it 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 till the next Legislative Day.

6. Presentation of Bill:

Building Regulation Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

7. Rising Food Prices and Threat to National Food Security:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that food is a fundamental and basic human need;

Concerned about the continuous rise in the price of food generally (e.g. Rice, flour, sugar, Millet, corn sorghum, etc.) sometimes up to 100%;

Worried that the food scarcity and related increase in prices is not only restricted to Nigeria but in other developing countries;

Observed that the recent food riots and social unrest in developing countries like, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, the Philippines, Republic of Niger were triggered by hunger and frustration of the citizenry's inability to afford the prices of staple food items.

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to submit a Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the purchase of more food to support the strategic food reserve of the country;
- iii) Further urge the Federal Government through its relevant agencies to grant agricultural subsidies to farmers in order to encourage the production of more food;

- (Hi) Direct the Nigeria Customs Service to waive import duties on basic/essential food items;
- (iv) Urge relevant government agencies to encourage the importation of basic/essential food items (*Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume and 149 Others*).

Debate:

Leave out all the prayers in the motion and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"Invite the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to submit to the Honourable House, the short and long-term strategies to deal with the current rising costs of grains and food shortages in the country" (*Hon. Habeeb A. B. Fasinro*).

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

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that food is a fundamental and basic human need;

Concerned about the continuous rise in the price of food generally (e.g. Rice, flour, sugar, Millet, corn sorghum, etc.) sometimes up to 100%;

Worried that the food scarcity and related increase in prices is not only restricted to Nigeria but in other developing countries;

Observed that the recent food riots and social unrest in developing countries like, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, the Philippines, Republic of Niger were triggered by hunger and frustration of the citizenry's inability to afford the prices of staple food items.

Resolved to:

Invite the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to submit to the Honourable House the short and long-term strategies to deal with the current rising costs of grains and food shortages in the country (**HR. 16/2008**).

8. Imminent Eruption of Lake Nyos:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that the imminent explosion of Lake Nyos portends disastrous consequences for Nigeria, especially the States of Benue, Taraba, Cross River, Nassarawa and Kogi;

Further notes the palpable apprehension of citizens especially those residing directly in the adjacent villages and plain of the lake;

Worried by Experts' reports that the explosion, if it occurs, would be as devastating as the Asian Tsunami, destroying human lives, properties, farm lands, animals, air and water pollution and general environmental degradation;

Further worried that the Resolution (**11/2005**) passed by the 4th Republic, 2nd National Assembly, Second Session (*vide* Votes No. 73) has not been given effect to;

Mindful that the preventive measures proposed by both national and international agencies appear to be the proper and only remedy;

Disturbed that from Experts' reports, Nigeria does not possess the capacity to manage a disaster of such magnitude if allowed to occur;

Acknowledges that the disaster is preventable hence the need to do so is urgent.

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Joint Committee on Water Resources, Environment and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to visit the area as a way of ascertaining the scope and imminence of the explosion of the lake and report to the House within 2 weeks;
- (ii) urge the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria to use his good offices to facilitate the expeditious implementation of the remedial measures as proposed in the reports of the experts including the resettlement programme and construction of the KashimWlfia Dam;
- (iii) further mandate the House Committee on Legislative Compliance to monitor the implementation of these measures (*Hon. Chille W. Igbawua and 59 Others*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayers (i), (ii), (iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof: "Direct the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to liaise with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Office of the National Security Adviser towards implementation of the expert report on methods to expel gas from Lake Nyos" (*Hon. Chuma Nzeribe*).

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

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

Noted that the imminent explosion of Lake Nyos portends disastrous consequences for Nigeria, especially the States of Benue, Taraba, Cross River, Nassarawa and Kogi;

Further noted the palpable apprehension of citizens especially those residing directly in the adjacent villages and plain of the lake;

Worried by Experts' reports that the explosion, if it occurs, would be as devastating as the Asian Tsunami, destroying human lives, properties, farm lands, animals, air and water pollution and general environmental degradation;

Further worried that the Resolution (11/2005) passed by the 4th Republic, 2nd National Assembly, Second Session (*vide* Votes No. 73) has not been given effect to;

Mindful that the preventive measures proposed by both national and international agencies appear to be the proper and only remedy;

Disturbed that from Experts' reports, Nigeria does not possess the capacity to manage a disaster of such magnitude if allowed to occur;

Acknowledged that the disaster is preventable hence the need to do so is urgent.

Resolved to:

Direct the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to liaise with National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Office of the National Security Adviser towards implementation of the expert report on methods to expel gas from Lake Nyos (HR. 17/2008).

9. 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 (he Arts and Science of Cost and Management Accountancy in the Federation and for Other Purposes Connected Therewith. 2008 — *Second Reading*:

Order read, deferred.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute for Training and Development of Nigeria Charged with the Responsibility for Regulating the Practice of Training and Development; and for Related Matters, 2008 — Second Reading:**

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That a **Bill for an** Act to Establish the Chartered **Institute** for Training and Development **of** Nigeria Charged with the Responsibility for Regulating the Practice of Training and Development; and for Related Matters, 2008 be now read a Second Time (Hon. Solomon **Agidani**).*

Debate-

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

11. **Adjournment:**

That this House **do now** adjourn till Thursday, 17 April, 2008 at 10.00 -A.m. '(Hon. Baba **Shehu Agaie**).

Adjourned accordingly at 4.22 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker