



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

SECOND VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 7 June, 2006

1. The House met at 2.45 p.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the First Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 7 June, 2006.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcement:**
Conference Committee:
Mr Speaker named Conferees on:
(0 The Christian Pilgrim Commission Bill, 2006;
(it) The Hajj Commission Bill, 2006:
 (a) Hon. Usman Bugaje
 (b) Hon. Chris Ogenechonwen
 (c) Hon. Tata Umar
 (d) Hon. John Longhor
 (e) Hon. Aliyu Bindawa
 if) Hon. Florence Akihwale.
4. **Petition:**
A petition was received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

Hon. Ike Chinwo, from 8 former staff of Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC), praying the House to intervene in the wrongful termination of their appointments by the Company and grant the reliefs sought in their petition.
5. **End of Session Address:**
ADDRESS BY THE RT HON. AMINU BELLO MASARI, SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT THE END OF THIRD SESSION OF THE SECOND ASSEMBLY ON JUNE 7, 2006.

FACING THE CHALLENGES OF NATION BUILDING

I treasure this special opportunity to once again address you at the end of the 3rd Legislative Session of the 2nd Assembly of the 4th Republic, Federal Republic of Nigeria. Today, we mark and celebrate the formal end of the 3rd Legislative Session with praise and thanksgiving to God for what has turned out to be the most eventful and memorable of our tenure. As it were God, in the infancy of His Grace and wisdom saw us through all, leaving the House, the National Assembly and indeed the legislative arm of government with enhanced image in the eyes of our people while increasing public confidence in us.

We have, in the discharge of our collective mandate, demonstrated our commitment to build a country in which no man is oppressed, a country in which there are equal opportunities for all and indeed a nation in which the rule of law is sacred and all the fundamental rights prescribed in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 are exercised without let or hindrance. This is largely due to the acceptance of the fact that part of our mandate here is to protect and foster civil liberties.

Within the Session the House considered and passed notable fiscal measures, namely, the 2005 Supplementary Appropriation for the payment of foreign debt owed the Paris Club of Creditors, the various virements proposals for the 2005 budget for a more realistic implementation of that budget and the 2006 Appropriation Bill.

On the 2006 Appropriation, I urge all the Standing Committees to monitor the Sectoral implementation and submit mid-term appraisal of the implementation, including impediments to (he House for consideration as we resume from vacation. Besides, the Appropriation Committee is reminded of the mandatory reporting clauses in the 2006 Appropriation Act demanding the Minister of Finance, Governor of Central Bank and Accountant General of the Federation to periodically report to the National Assembly on the Status of the regular Accounts and the excess crude Account and ensure compliance by the affected officers of the government before we resume from vacation.

Another major landmark legislation handled by the House was the Constitution Amendment Bill. Details of same and outcome is well known to all. It was defeated. The tension that greeted the introduction of the bill In the House should be expected in any legislative Chamber and this House was no exception. Debate was intense and passionate and a feeling of pessimism enveloped the air. I was confident that the unity of purpose in the House, its political maturity and courage would inform the end result. I had cause to assure you and all Nigerians that I would not derogate from the provisions of the Constitution and that I would sustain its inviolability and preserve its sanctity, including the Standing Orders of this House. I was vindicated as the end result was a demonstration of my faith in the capacity of this August Assembly to address and determine issues of such grave national importance for the good of the country. I salute you all.

I have heard most Nigerians submit that the Legislature ought not to have thrown out the entire Bill as there are issues therein which deserved attention. Permit me to assure them that their fears are being accommodated. For instance, such issues as the percentage of derivation can be attended to by the Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account) Bill, now pending before us, without necessarily amending the Constitution. Further, issues like States creation, among others can also be treated by originating Bills without necessarily amending the Constitution as the Constitution itself has provided the mode for so doing.

At this juncture, I direct the Special Committee handling the Revenue Allocation Bill to ensure that it completes work during the recess as this will be a priority measure to be considered to conclusion as we resume from our Sessional vacation.

The Electoral Bill has been concluded by this Honourable House and is being forwarded to Mr President for Assent. This Bill is a landmark achievement for the Legislature. This House hereby urge the Independent National Electoral Commission that the actions, Electoral programmes, timetable, method of voting, relationship with the political parties, the pronouncements of the Chairman, Commissioners, Officers and Agents should accord with the provisions of that Act. INEC needs to create and grow public confidence, for the outcome of an election is respected not much by the declared result, but by the credibility of the process and integrity of the Electoral body. I cease this opportunity also to urge the Ministry of Finance to release the budgetary provisions of INEC to allow for early preparations for the 2007 elections. This is also very important to avoid wrong inferences.

Within the concluding Session, the House received in Joint Session with the Senate, The President of Peoples Republic of China. We continue to appreciate that visit and are concretizing steps to actualize the benefits of the understandings reached.

We have kept faith with the electorate in our Constitutional responsibility of ensuring order, peace, and good government. We have remained supportive of the Executive branch of government in enacting legislations that were clearly pro-people and pro-development. During the session, 62 Bills were introduced in this Chamber; 31 of these Bills originated from the Executive Arms of Government; 1 from the Senate for concurrence by the House and 30 from Hon. Members. The House passed 39 of these Bills, ratified and domesticated 2 treaties and 2 conventions for implementation in vital areas of the socioeconomic life of this country. I list hereunder the Bills, Treaties and Conventions passed and ratified, numbering 40 within the Session. Details of other Bills, Motions, Petitions and Bills Progression, Sponsors, etc. will be published to you all by the Rules and Business Committee because it is being updated as at now.

The Number of Bills, Treaties and Conventions Passed and Ratified in the Third Session: 40

S/No.	Title	Date passed	Sponsor(s)
1.	(HB. 22) Shelter Belt Project Bill 2003	27/7/2005	Hon. Bako Sarai and 96 others
2.	(HB.135) Border Communities Development Agency (Amendment), Bill, 2005	2/8/2005	Executive
3.	(HB. 25) Agriculture (Provision of Budget Allocation) Bill, 2003	2/8/2005	Hon. Bako Sarai
4.	(HB. 71) National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency Bill, 2004	23/8/2005	Executive
5.	(HB. 66)' Federal Environmental Protection Agency (Repeal) Bill, 2004	23/8/2005	Hon. Mercy Almona-Isei
6.	(HB. 85) National Assembly Statutory Expenditure Account (Establishment, Special Provisions, etc), Bill, 2004	31/8/2005	Hon. Halims Agoda
7.	(SB. 109) Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration (Amendment) Bill, 2004	31/8/2005	Senate
8.	(HB. 60) Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria Bill, 2003	21/9/2005	Hon. Mercy Almona-Isei
9.	(HB.159) International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973/78 (Ratification and Enforcement Bill, 2004	10/11/2005	Executive
10.	(HB.55) Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Nigeria, Bill 2003	11/10/2005	Hon. Abdullahi Idris Umar
11.	(HB. 4) Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2003	16/11/2005	Executive
12.	(HB. 129) Deep Offshore and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contracts Act 1999 (Amendment) Bill, 2005	1/12/2005	Hon. Cairo Ojougboh
13.	(SB. 7) Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (Establishment Act) Bill, 2004	1/12/2005	Senate
14.	Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2006	15/12/2005	Executive
15.	(HB. 52) Federal Road Safety Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2003	17/1/2006	Hon. Solomon U. Agidani
16.	(HB.137) Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Bill, 2005	19/1/2006	Executive
17.	(HB.130) Petroleum Act, Cap.350 LFN 1990 (Amendment Bill, 2004	19/1/2006	Hon. Cairo Ojougboh
18.	Appropriations Bill, 2006	21/2/2006	Executive
19.	(HB. 155) Statute of the West African Central Bank (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill, 2004	28/2/2006	Executive
20.	(HB. 98) National Boundary Commission (Establishment, Etc) Bill, 2004	1/3/2006	Executive
21.	(HB.156), Agreement on the Establishment of the West African Monetary Zone (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill, 2004	1/3/2006	Executive

22.	<i>International Convention on Civil Liability for Damage (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill, 2004</i>	1/3/2006	Executive
23.	<i>International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1971 as amended (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill, 2004</i>	1/3/2006	Executive
24.	<i>(HB.115) National Agency for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS (NAPCA) (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2004</i>	25/3/2006	Executive
25.	<i>(HB. 187) Pension Rights of Federal Judicial Officers (Transfer of Responsibility and Administration) Bill, 2005</i>	28/3/2006	Hon. Bala Ibn Na 'Allah
26.	<i>(HB. 171)' National Industrial Court Bill, 2005</i>	29/3/2006	Hon. Bala Ibn Na Allah
27.	<i>(HB. 160) Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation Bill, 2006</i>	29/3/2006	Executive
28.	<i>(HB. 209) Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, of 2006</i>	9/5/2006	Executive
29.	<i>(HB.191) Electoral Bill, 2006</i>	17/5/2006	Executive
30.	<i>Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Bill, 2006</i>	24/5/2006	Executive
31.	<i>(HB. 168) A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Agency for Foreign Assistance (NAFFA); and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006</i>	7/6/2006	Hon. Irem Oka Ibom
32.	<i>(HB. 104) A Bill for Act to provide for the Establishment of the National Agriculture Development Fund, 2006</i>	7/6/2006	Executive
33.	<i>(HB. 87) A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Minerals and Mining Act, No. 34 of 1999 and Re-Enact the Minerals and Mining Act for the Purposes of Regulating all Aspects of the Exploration and Exploitation of Solid Minerals in Nigeria and for Connected Purposes, 2006</i>	7/6/2006	Hon. Ogbuefi. Ozomgbachi
34.	<i>(HB. 177) A Bill for An A ct to provide for the Establishment of the Federal Inland Revenue Service, Charged with Powers for Collection of Revenue Accruable to the Government of the Federation; and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006</i>	7/6/2006	Executive
35.	<i>(HB. 180) A Bill for an Act to Amend the Value Added Tax Act 2004 and for Matter Connected Therewith 2006</i>	7/6/2006	Executive
36.	<i>(HB. 173) A Bill for An Act to Amend the National Automotive Council Act 2004 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006</i>	7/6/2006	Executive
37.	<i>(HB. 178) A Bill for An Act to Amend the Customs and Excise Tariff, Etc. (Consolidation) Act 2004 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006</i>	7/6/2006	Executive
38.	<i>(HB. 179) A Bill for An Act to Amend the National Sugar Development Council Act 2004 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006</i>	7/6/2006	Executive

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| 39. | (HB. 185) A Bill for an Act to Re-Organise the Role of the Federal Government in the Coordination of Hajj Matters, the Consequential Repeal of the Nigerian Pilgrims Commission Act, 1989 and to Establish a Hajj Commission That Will License, Regulate, Perform Supervisory Functions over Other Bodies and Agencies and Other Matters Connected Therewith 2006 | 7/6/2006 | Hon. Usman Bugaje |
| 40. | (HB. 192) A Bill for an Act to Re-Organise the Role of the Federal Government in the Coordination of Christian Pilgrim Matters, the Consequential Repeal of the Nigerian Pilgrims Commission Act, 1989 and to Establish a National Pilgrim Commission That Will License, Regulate, Perform Supervisory Functions over Other Bodies and Agencies and Other Matters Connected Therewith 2006 | 7/6/2006 | Hon. Ita Enang |

The House is steadfastly committed to the yearnings and aspirations of the electorates. This was exercised by the entertainment of motions and passage of resolutions. The House adopted 43 Resolutions and recommended solutions to problems ranging from famine in the Republic of Niger to which Members graciously contributed a minimum of N20,000.00, the poor state of Nigerian Prisons, Safety on our High ways, Soaring Prices of foodstuffs and other essential commodities in the country, flood disasters in some parts of the country, extra judicial killings, arbitrary increases in price of petroleum products, poor maintenance of roads and frequent collapse of buildings in the country, air disasters in the country resulting in loss of lives, alleged financial irregularities in the Nigeria Football Association, Insecurity of lives and properties, flagrant violations of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and a host of others. I make bold to say that we did well in our deliberative responsibilities and I attribute this achievement to the concern of every Member of this august Chamber for the Security, prosperity and well-being of the people of This country.

Within the Session, the House formally presented and distributed Laws of the Federation of Nigeria made between 1999 - 2005. This has been distributed to all Hon. Members and stakeholders in the society. Because of the inquiries and requests for copies, I have directed that more sets be produced because it is not reasonable that Laws made by the Legislature are not available to the citizenry, for whom they were made. The publication, the ovation that greeted the Launch and commendation from Distinguished Senators, Hon. Members, the Legal and Academic Community has encouraged me and all of us in this venture.

Permit me to extend your appreciation and commendation to the Rules and Business Committee, and in particular the Chairman, who coordinated and supervised the publications.

Within the Session also, the House appraised the Legislative process and concluded that the 2nd Reading and general progress of Bills were hampered by the delays and sometimes outright tardiness of the Federal Government Press, Lagos to gazette our Bills. Sometimes the Bills were Gazetted and published after conclusion of legislative process on, them. The Leadership of the National Assembly, and the Management decided that it was necessary to initiate an in-house Journal wherein our Bills and other legislative information will be published. Accordingly, the **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JOURNAL** was borne. We are all satisfied with the progress so far, I commend the process.

On Petitions I regret that many of them have not been considered. I am conscious that Petition affects rights of the Citizens directly and should be given primacy in consideration. I therefore direct that priority be given to these so that all Petitions reported be considered and concluded in priority.

I am concerned about Bills Committed to Committees for which no Reports are submitted by the Committees. The Public Procurement Bill, Fiscal Responsibility Bill, Revenue Allocation (Federation Accounts) Bill, among others are such Bills, I am conscious that Political activity will be fever pitch as we resume and it will be a disservice to our Country if we allow some of these Bills to pend for so long. I therefore direct the Rules and Business Committee to list for consideration in Committee of Whole all Bills committed to Standing or Special/Ad-Hoc Committees which has been pending up to six months as at the time we resume. We have a duty to Nigerians and the Economic Reform Programme of our administration to fast-track these Bills for the good of all.

Hon. Members, the Session was not all rosy. Sadly, we lost two of our Members to death —Hon. Nsini Vmosoh from Akwa Ibom State and Hon. Usman Bapparu from Gombe State. We continue to pray for their families that God do sustain and meet their needs. I also encourage us to continue showing concern for their families. We prayed also that God should prevent such calamities be falling on any longer.

My Colleagues, Brothers and Sisters, we have ran the race of the 3rd Session. We have fought the good fight. May God reward us by His Grace. And as you proceed on your Annual vacation, may His Mighty Hands protect you and lead you all safely back to this Chamber to commence the 4th Session and conclude our tenure. Interact and relate well with your constituents and extend to them all the compliments of the House of Representatives.

God Bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Hon. Aminu Bello Masari

Dalatun Katsina

Speaker House of Representatives.

6. **Bomb Attack on the Private Residence of the Hon. Deputy Speaker—Remarks by the Hon. Speaker:**
Mr Speaker referred to the bomb attack on the private residence of the Hon. Deputy Speaker, in Port Harcourt, the previous day at about 2.30 a.m., allegedly by faceless groups. He condemned the attack and linked it to the forthcoming General Elections in 2007. He asserted that the House would demand a thorough investigation of the bomb attack by the Police. Mr Speaker called for security consciousness among the citizenry in the wake of the prevailing state of insecurity in the country exemplified by the current spate of robbery incidents in Aba, Abia State. He deplored the breakdown of law and order in Onitsha and environs and called for decisive action to stem the tide of lawlessness in that State. He explained that for democracy to thrive in the country, there was the need for healthy competition and free flow of ideas. Concluding, he advised Hon. Members to remain steadfast, committed and dedicated to the service of the nation.

7. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 1 August, 2006 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Adjourned accordingly at 3.45 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker