



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 12 October, 2006

1. The House **met** at 10.03 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, 11 October, 2006.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Message:**
Mr Speaker read the following Message from the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

21 June, 2006.

*The Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three-Arms Zone, Asokoro -
Abuja.*

Dear Hon. Speaker,

**PRESENTATION OF A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR
MEASURES TO COMBAT TERRORISM AND RELATED MATTERS**

I hereby present, for formal consideration and passage into law by the House, the attached Bill which seeks to provide for measures for the prevention, prohibition and combating of acts of terrorism and the financing of terrorism in Nigeria and for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

I hope the Bill will receive prompt attention of Honourable Members of the House of Representatives.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) **OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO**

4. Privilege:

Hon. **John** Longhor recalled that his attempt, *vide* the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 27 September, 2006 to move a motion to the effect that a breach of his Privilege was allegedly committed by an Official of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) at the Ikeja High Court, Lagos on 28 August, 2006, was over ruled by Mr Speaker. He asserted that pursuant to Mr Speaker's advice, he filed a motion with the Committee on Rules and Business on the subject matter, but the refusal of the Chairman of the Committee to process the motion for consideration had denied him the opportunity to canvass the alleged breach of his Privilege.

In his response, Hon. Ita Enang, Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business read the text of Hon. Longhor's motion and informed the House that the Committee situated the motion with the provisions of the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act 1990 and observed that Hon. Longhor's encounter with an Official of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission at an Ikeja High Court, Lagos, bordered largely on a violation of his fundamental human right and not a breach of his Privilege as provided in the aforementioned Act. He contended that the few cases of alleged breaches of Members' Privilege previously considered by the House were not proper cases because in the last seven years, the House of Representatives had not *stricto sensu* considered any matter of Privilege affecting Honourable Members within the ambit of the Act.

Debate:

Hon. Longhor, persuaded by further arguments on the futility of his action and advised to seek redress in Court, rested the matter.

5. Flood Disaster in Shagari Local Government Area, Sokoto State:

The House:

Notes that on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 a torrential rainfall occurred in Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto State followed by flood;

Concerned that many farmlands and villages around the Shagari Dam site were submerged and the inhabitants displaced as a result of the flood;

Appreciates the on-going construction work at the Shagari Dam in Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto State by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources;

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the affected victims;
- (ii) Mandate the House Committee on Disaster Management to visit the affected areas, assess the extent of damage and report to the House;
- (iii) Urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to direct the Contractor to expedite work on the Dam (*Hon. Altine Shehu Kajiji and 43 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (0) *Leave out* all the words in prayer (0 and *insert* the following instead thereof
"Call on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to expedite action on sending relief materials to the affected victims" (*Hon. Abubakar Momoh*).

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

- (it) *Insert* a new prayer (iv) as follows:
"That Engineers in the Ministry of Water Resources and River Basin Authorities should include maintenance schedule *vis-a-vis* Environmental Impact Assessment in their activities to stem the incidence of flooding" (*Hon. Peter Orimoloye*).

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

(iii) Insert a new prayer (v) as follows:

"Mandate the House Committee on Disaster Management to visit the affected area, assess the extent of damage and see what compensation was paid to the victims and report to the House" (*Hon. Altine Shehu Kajiji*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

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

Noted that on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 a torrential rainfall occurred in Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto State followed by flood;

Concerned that many farmlands and villages around the Shagari Dam site were submerged and the inhabitants displaced as a result of the flood;

Appreciated the on-going construction work at the Shagari Dam in Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto State by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources;

Resolved to:

(i) Call on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to expedite action on sending relief materials to the affected victims;

(ii) Mandate the House Committee on Disaster Management to visit the affected areas, assess the extent of damage and report to the House;

(iii) Urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to direct the Contractor to expedite work on the Dam;

(iv) Direct Engineers in the Ministry of Water Resources and River Basin Authorities to include maintenance schedule vis-a-vis Environmental Impact Assessment in their activities to stem the incidence of flooding (*HR. 59/2006*).

6. **Unethical and Unprofessional Banking Practices by Commercial**

Banks: The House;

Notes the unwholesome activities by some Commercial Banks who engage young persons with minimum financial targets to keep their jobs;

Worries that most of these persons in the bid to keep their jobs resort to unethical and unprofessional practices to meet these targets and consequently expose them to various hazards and abuses;

Disturbs that some banks have introduced both Saturday and Sunday banking in addition to the normal banking days contravening all known labour laws and tantamount to enslavement and a negation of the principles of productivity;

Resolves to:

(i) Direct the Central Bank of Nigeria to issue a policy statement to all Commercial Banks prohibiting the setting of minimum financial targets by these banks to their employees;

(ii) Call on all Commercial Banks to set aside at least one day as a day of rest for their employees in compliance with international laws (*Hon. Clever M. Ikisikpo and 4 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(i) Insert a new prayer (*jit*) as follows;

"Mandate the House Committees on Banking and currency to assess the current laws on Banking Operations with a view to reviewing the exploitative nature of the Banking Services vis-a-vis Human Rights of its workers" (*Hon. Saudatu Sani*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (ii) INSERT a new prayer (iv) as follows;
"Direct Joint Committees on Banking, Labour and Productivity to conduct investigation involving stakeholders to address issues involved in the unethical and unprofessional banking practices by Commercial Banks" (*Hon. Abubakar Momoh*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iii) Insert a new prayer (v) as follows;
"Direct the Central Bank of Nigeria to work out a Code of Conduct for the Commercial Banks in line with existing laws in Nigeria" (*Hon. Ike Chinwo*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iv) Leave out all the words in prayers (i) and (ii) and insert the following instead thereof;
"Mandate the House Committees on Banking, Labour and Productivity to jointly interface with the stakeholders with a view to curing the aforementioned defects and advise the House" (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

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

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

Noted the unwholesome activities by some Commercial Banks who engage young persons with minimum financial targets to keep their jobs;

Worried that most of these persons in the bid to keep their jobs resort to unethical and unprofessional practices to meet these targets and consequently expose them to various hazards and abuses;

Disturbed that some banks have introduced both Saturday and Sunday banking in addition to the normal banking days contravening all known labour laws and tantamount to enslavement and a negation of the principles of productivity;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency, Labour and Productivity to interface with the stakeholders with a view to curing the aforementioned defects and advise the House (**HR. 60/2006**)

7. **Adjournment Motion:**

Speaking on the Motion for Adjournment, the House Leader, Hon. Abdul Ningi announced that the House would adjourn for two weeks to enable Hon. Members observe the Eid-El-Fitri festival as well as participate in the on-going Voters' Registration exercise.

8. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 31 October, 2006 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.48 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker