



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 7 November, 2006

1. The House met at 10.15 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, 1 November, 2006.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. Messages:
Mr Speaker read the following Messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria: (0



PRESIDENT,

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

30 October, 2006

Alhaji (Hon.) Aminu Bello Masari,
Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Hon. Speaker,

START-UP OF THE MODERNISATION OF THE NIGERIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM

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I wish to seek the understanding of Honourable Members of the House of Representatives for the immediate start-up of the implementation of the first phase of the modernisation of Nigeria's Railway system. The implementation of the recently-developed master-plan for the modernisation of the rail system in the country is phased over twenty-year period and is designed to replace the existing narrow gauge with a standard gauge, covering the entire country, capable of providing train services running from South to North, West to East and vice versa; with a train speed of not less than 160 kilometre per hour on its major lines. The first phase of the implementation schedule will cover the Lagos-Kano axis, while the second phase will cover the Port-Harcourt-Maiduguri axis. The extensions to the other parts of the country will be covered in subsequent phases.

The implementation details and cost estimates for the first phase are now ready while those for the second phase are nearing completion.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND FUNDING OF THE FIRST PHASE:

The first phase, which will involve the construction of about 1,315 kilometres of double track standard gauge rail corridor from Lagos to Kano, with a single tract loop from Mokwa through Abuja to Kaduna, will run, as much as possible, along the existing narrow gauge line to reduce the payment of compensation for land, and include the modernisation of the existing train stations with a "state-of-the-art" face-lift of the major ones; the provision of modern ICT system via underground optic fibre; provision of electrically-controlled signaling system; construction of bridges and fly-overs-as may be required, etc.

The total cost of the first phase is estimated at US\$8.3billion, equivalent to N1,054.1 billion, and will be executed over a four-year period. As I briefed the House earlier, US\$1.3 billion out of the US\$2.5billion concessional facility recently procured from the Chinese Government will be utilised to meet the first year cost of the project, while the second year (i.e 2007) expenditure is estimated at the equivalent of US\$1.5 billion (190.5billion) to be sourced from the Excess Crude Proceeds' account. I will submit the necessary requests to the National Assembly for the required appropriation at the appropriate time.

Since the plan for the modernisation of our railway system is phased over 20 years, it is necessary to start its implementation immediately. We need a railway system that can cope with the movement of goods and passengers that will result from the expansion of our economy, the size of which is expected to double every six years if we are able to sustain a growth rate of around 10 per cent per annum. With the vision of Nigeria becoming one of the 20 largest economies in the world by year 2020, it is necessary to have a rail system that will form the bedrock of coping with the expected explosion in goods and passenger traffic and which will help in no small measure in ameliorating the rapid deterioration of our motor ways caused by the dead weight of goods which are currently being transported by road instead of by rail. It will also assist in lowering the cost of doing business in the country, as rail transportation is one of the cheapest means of transporting heavy goods over long distances in country as large as ours. The more the delay in the start-up of the project, the more expensive it will become and the more harm its non-implementation will continue to wreak on the economy.

I, therefore, will be very delighted if the Honourable Members will take note of the urgency that attaches to the start-up of this strategic project, while I forward necessary draft special appropriation bill in due course.

Yours sincerely,

**(Signed) OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO**



PRESIDENT,

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

October 31, 2006

Alhaji Bello Masari,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Hon. Speaker,

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL 2006
FOR THE PARTIAL LIQUIDATION OF THE DEBTS
OWED TO THE LONDON CLUB OF CREDITORS

The Honourable Speaker will kindly recall that following our successful repayment of the Paris Club debts, I informed the National Assembly about our intention to also exit the London Club debts.

As you are aware, the total stock of debt owed to the London Club of Creditors stands at US\$2,437,849,343. This is made up of the following Par Bond (and associated Oil Warrants) of US\$1,922,622,320 and Promissory Notes of US\$515,227,023.

The Par Bonds (and associated Oil Warrants) component of the debt is owed exclusively by the Federal Government, while the Promissory Notes component is owed in differing proportions by the Federal, States and Local Governments.

Following a comprehensive assessment of the strategic options available to us, we have elected to partially liquidate the debt of stock owed to the London Club of Creditors, by liquidating in full the Par Bonds and, in part, Oil Warrants amounting to US\$1,886,849,343.

The "**Special Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2006**", which I transmit herewith, seeks your authorisation for the partial liquidation of the debts owed to the London Club of Creditors, through the full liquidation of the Par Bonds and partial liquidation of the associated Oil Warrants amounting to US\$1,886,849,343, equivalent to **N242,118,318,949.00**.

The partial redemption of our debts to the London Club of Creditors will serve to improve our economic profile and credit rating. More importantly, it will help further reduce our debt service obligations and allow us redirect spending to the provision of public goods and services for the benefit of our citizens.

I, therefore, urge you to consider and pass the "**Special Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2006**" expeditiously.

It is my sincere hope that the cordial relationship between the Executive and the National Assembly will continue to flourish as we proceed with the implementation of the London Club exit strategy.

Kindly accept, Honourable, Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) **OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO**

(III)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134

1 November, 2006

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

Dear Hon. Speaker,

PRESENTATION OF A BILL

I hereby present, for formal consideration and passage into law by the House of Representatives, the attached Bill which seeks to provide for the establishment of Federal Co-operative Colleges in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

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

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) **OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO**

4. Announcements:

Conference Committees:

Mr Speaker named Conferees on the following Bills:

- (a) A Bill for an Act to provide for the Regulation of Air Navigation, Establishment of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority:
 - (i) Hon. K.G.B. Oguakwa
 - (ii) Hon. Hadi Sirika
 - (iii) Hon. Azumi Babaji
 - (iv) Hon. Nasiru Balarabe
 - (v) Hon. Frank Ineke
 - (vi) Hon. Musa Wuyep.
- (b) A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation:
 - (i) Hon. Gilbert Nnaji
 - (ii) Hon. Leo Ogor
 - (iii) Hon. Dantiye Nasiru
 - (iv) Hon. Caleb Zagi
 - (v) Hon. Adeyemi Oluwale
 - (vi) Hon. Sadiq Sanusi.

5. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. J. H. O. Agoda, from Miss P. L. Oduma, protesting her unjust dismissal from Service by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and to grant the reliefs sought in her petition;
- (if) Hon. Ita Enang, from 71 staff of the defunct Nigerian Education Bank, praying the House to investigate their unjust disengagement from the Service of the Bank and to grant the reliefs sought therein;
- (iii) Hon. C. E. Nwogu, from Bussdor United Football Club, praying the House to investigate the allegation of match-fixing between the Akwa United Football Club and the Calabar Rovers Football Club and to grant the reliefs sought therein.

6. Admittance to the Chamber:

Motion made, "That Order XVI, Rule (9) be suspended to admit the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission and his Officials to the Chamber to brief the House on the On-Going Voters' Registration Exercise and Preparations for the Conduct of 2007 General Elections, pursuant to House Resolution (**HR. 61/2006**) of Wednesday, 1 November, 2006" (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*)

Question put and agreed to.

Entry — 11.10 a.m.

Briefing by the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission, Professor Maurice Iwu.

Departure — 1.50p.m.

Debate:

Committee on Electoral Matters ordered to monitor the On-Going Voters' Registration Exercise and to report to the House on Tuesday, 21 November, 2006, on the receipt of 33,000 additional Electronic Machines by the Commission, the mode of distribution of the Machines to the various States of the Federation and the Statistics of Voters registered in each State of the Federation.

See details of Proceedings in the Official Report of Tuesday, 7 November, 2006.

7. Adjournment:

And it being 2.03 p.m. the House adjourned till Wednesday, 8 November, 2006 at 2.00 p.m. (Hon. Abdul Ningi).

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker