



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 28 November, 2006

1. The House met at 10.27 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 16 November, 2006.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**
(a) *Defections:*
Mr Speaker announced the following defections:

Uche



Onyeagicha Esq (MHR)

Owerri Municipal/Owerri North &
Owerri West Federal Constituency
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House of Representatives
National Assembly

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28th November 2006.

*The Honourable Speaker
House of Representatives
National Assembly, Abuja.*

Sir,

CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTY.

*

Owing to the protracted and self destructive factionalisation of my party the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA), I am constrained to resign my membership of the Party.

With utmost humility and in accordance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, I hereby formally declare my membership of the Action Congress (AC).

I would be most grateful to be granted all my rights and privileges as well as discharge all my responsibilities as a member of the Action Congress.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Uche Onyeagucka Esq. MHR

Gwarzo & Kabo Federal Constituency **HOUSE OF**

REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

22 November, 2006

Hon. Speaker

House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

Sir,

Notice of Resignation from All Nigerian People's Party (ANPP) and Decamping to the democratic People's Party (DPP).

I joined the All Nigerian People's Party in 2003 with very good hope and aspiration to perform better in my constituency and the entire nation to benefit the devidece of democracy.

I thank the Almighty God and entire members of All Nigerian People's Party (ANPP) who mandate me to represent my constituency in the House of Representatives, after all the necessary consultation with my supporters who initiated to leave All Nigerian People's Party (ANPP) and decamp to Democratic People's Party DPP.

In view of the above I resign my membership of All Nigerian People's Party and registered in Democratic People's Party (D.P.P.). The reason behind my resignation remains closed.

I wish to call the attention of all the members of the House of Representatives especially members of the All Nigerian People's Party (ANPP) that our cordial relationship remains as usual.

Finally, I thank the leadership of the House and my colleagues for their support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Hon. Hamza Zakari Gwarzo

Cc:

1. Minority Leader of the House of Representatives ANPP
2. National Chairman ANPP Headquarters, Abuja
3. Kano State Chairman ANPP
4. Gwarzo Local Government Chairman ANPP
5. Kabo Local Government Chairman ANPP
6. D.P. O in charge Gwarzo Local Government Area
7. D.P. O in charge Kabo Local Government Area
8. S.S.S. in charge Gwarzo Local Government Area
9. S.S.S in charge Kabo Local Government Area
10. INEC Gwarzo Local Government Area
11. INEC Kabo Local Government Area

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*Binta Garba*

KADUNA SOUTH CONSTITUENCY, KADUNA STATE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE, Three Arms Zone, Abuja

2nd November, 2006.

*The Hon Speaker
National Assembly
Three Arms Zone
Abuja.*

Sir,

This is to notify the Honorable House that I have resigned my membership from the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) and joined the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The decision is totally personal to me.

I will also want to use this opportunity to thank the entire membership of the All Nigerian Peoples Party for their kind and moral support, throughout my period of membership.

While I remain, kindly accept the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours truly,

(Signed)
Binta Garba

(b) Visitors:

Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Gallery of visiting Teachers and Students of ERCC Secondary School, Lafia, Nasarawa State.

4. Petition:

A petition was received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

Hon. Datti Baba Ahmed, from Sabitu Yaro, Abdu Nuhu Bayero and Isiyaku Abdullahi Lawal, praying the House to prevail on the Ministry of Internal Affairs to pay them their gratuity and arrears of pension.

5. Presentation of the Report of the Committee on Electoral Matters on the On-Going Voters' Registration Exercise:

Mr Speaker recalled that the House Committee on Electoral Matters was ordered to monitor the on-going voters' registration exercise and on other matters related thereto, *vide* the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 7 November, 2006. He noted that the inability of the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to brief the House on the procurement of additional 33,000 Electronic Data Capture Machines by the Commission was due to the suspension of Plenary Sessions of the House on Thursday, 16 November, 2006. He invited the Chairman, Committee on Electoral Matters to brief the House and thereafter lay his Report.

Hon. Hamisu Shira, Chairman, Committee on Electoral Matters reported as follows:

**REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF VOTERS
REGISTRATION EXERCISE BY THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS.**

Preamble:

At its sitting of Tuesday, November 7, 2006, the House mandated the Committee on Electoral Matters to monitor the on-going Voters' registration exercise and report back to it following widespread fears that the exercise had run into a hitch even before it had gathered momentum. Specifically, the Committee was to ascertain the status of the 33,000 additional DDC machines that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was in receive, Hit mode of distribution of the machine to the various states of the federation and the statistic of the

Methodology:

Accordingly, the Committee divided its members into six teams and dispatched them to the six geopolitical zones of the country to monitor the exercise for three days. It also held several meetings with INEC Chairman and officials both at the National Assembly and at INEC Headquarters. While for constraints of time and resources, it was not possible to cover the 120,000 polling units nationwide, the Committee was able to establish a fairly accurate position on ground from the random monitoring it embarked upon. INEC also co-operated maximally by transparency, sometimes getting Committee members to physically inspect the machines as they arrived and as they were deployed to various parts of the country.

Findings:

The registration exercise commenced nationwide on Wednesday, 25 October, 2006 with 1,000 DDC equipment. As at 25 November, 2006, the Commission had deployed a total of 3,867 DDC equipment nationwide. The Committee verified and is satisfied that the equipment were deployed pro rata based on the number of polling units per State. The Commission has taken delivery of additional 12,000 **units** of DDC equipment which are currently being configured in readiness for redeployment to the field from 27/11/06 through 30/11/06. By Wednesday, 29 November 2006, the Commission expects to take delivery of additional 5,000 DDC equipment. As at Saturday, November 25, 2006, a total of 3,542,648 voters have been registered nationwide. The Committee notes that there has been progressive improvement in the operational modalities and efficiency of the voter registration exercise nationwide. The initial hiccups that raised doubt about the workability of the DDC equipment have been largely overcome. The registration officials are mastering the operation of the machines. This is evidenced in the drastic reduction in the time it takes to register a voter.

Find attached table of the detailed figures on State by State basis and analysis of registered voters.

Conclusion:

Voter Registration is a critical phase of the electoral process. Experience has shown that most electoral irregularities begin with this phase. If we are to have credible, free and fair elections, reason demands that we get it right from the start. From the demonstrated efficiency of the DDC equipment, the Committee is convinced it is capable of reducing to the barest minimum, if not eliminate completely, cases of multiple/underage voter registration and the attendant electoral irregularities. The thinking behind the introduction of the machines can therefore not be faulted.

However, given the reality on ground — the hiccups, the time constraint, etc. — the Committee feels it is not realistic to expect INEC to capture up to the 60 million registrable voters before the deadline of 14 December, 2006 as stipulated in the 2006 Electoral Act, Section 11 of the Act notwithstanding.

In spite of this, the Committee is reluctant to advocate a revert to manual registration given the abuses associated with it. The Committee is conscious of the need to protect the sanctity of the electoral process and therefore urges the House to note as follows:

- (i) that Section 10, Subsection 5 of the 2006 Electoral Act stipulates that "The registration of voters, updating and revision of the Register of voters under this Section shall stop not later than 120 days before any election covered by this Act";
- (ii) that Section 21 of the Act stipulates that "Not later than 60 days before a general election, the Supplementary voters' list shall be integrated with the voters' register and published";
- (iii) that the Committee intends to continue the monitoring process up to December 14, 2006, the date INEC insists it will capture all registrable voters.

(Signed)

HON. HAMISUM. SHIRA

Chairman November

21, 2006.

ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF DDC EQUIPMENT AND

PROGRESS OF VOTERS REGISTRATION AS 25TH NOVEMBER, 2006.									
S/N.	State	Polling Units	Total DDC Rqd	Already Deployed	Awaiting Deployment	Already/ Awaiting Deployment	Balance Rqd	Total regd as at 2003	Voters Regd so far
1	Abia	2,676	736	83	267	350	386	1,285,428	44,921
2	Adamawa	2,609	717	81	261	342	375	1,280,204	73,907
3	Akwa Ibom	2,982	820	-92-	299	-3-91	429	1,624,495	83,314
4	Anambra	4,623	1,271	142	463	605	666	1,859,795	63,679
5	Bauchi	4,074	1,120	125	408	533	587	2,130,557	97,326
6	Bayelsa	1,805	496	58	180	238	258	765,472	30,371
7	Benue	3,691	1,015	113	370	483	532	1,755,528	88,889
8	Borno	3,933	1,082	122	394	516	566	2,156,019	122,460
9	Cross river	2,283	625	72	228	300	328	1,289,192	62,555
10	Delta	3,625	997	112	362	474	523	1,607,337	89,535
11	Ebonyi	1,784	491	58	179	237	254	1,002,771	41,917
12	Edo	2,629	723	82	262	344	379	1,432,891	84,461
13	Ekiti	2,195	604	68	219	287	317	981,753	61,918
14	Enugu	2,958	813	92	297	389	424	1,479,542	65,010
15	FCT	562	155	79	56	135	20	628,100	149,061
16	Gombe	2,218	610	69	221	290	320	1,263,287	74,696
17	Imo	33,523	969	111	352	463	506	1,630,494	71,328
18	Jigawa	3,527	970	109	352	461	509	1,636,657	85,300
19	Kaduna	5,108	1,405	147	512	659	746	2,620,999	213,671
20	Kano	8,074	2,220	268	806	1,074	1,146	4,000,430	335,128
21	Katsina	4,896	1,346	151	490	641	705	2,567,245	126,500
22	Kebbi	2,398	659	74	240	314	345	1,343,549	74,667
23	Kogi	2,548	701	80	252	332	369	1,158,343	46,606
24	Kwara	1,872	515	59	188	247	268	995,882	56,794
25	Lagos	8,465	2,328	309	846	1,155	1,173	4,558,216	385,454
26	Nasarawa	1,495	411	52	149	201	210	852,626	52,679
27	Niger	3,187	876	99	320	419	457	1,607,730	66,974
28	Ogun	3,210	883	105	322	427	456	1,576,875	105,303
29	Ondo	3,009	827	96	301	397	430	1,504,181	79,465
30	Osun	3,010	828	95	301	396	432	1,367,627	79,928
31	Oyo	4,783	1,315	152	479	631	684	2,209,953	104,981
32	Plateau	2,631	724	82	263	345	379	1,391,594	61,443
33	Rivers	4,441	1,221	136	444	580	641	2,272,238	100,005
34	Sokoto	3,035	835	94	303	397	438	1,476,691	77,055
35	Taraba	1,911	526	64	391	255	271	1,026,950	63,690
36	Yobe	1,714	471	56	171	227	244	996,749	46,112
37	Zamfara	2,516	692	79	252	331	361	1,515,622	72,545
	Grand totals	120,000	33,000	3,867	12,000	15,867	17,133	60,823,022	3,542, 648

Report Laid.

Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) accordingly invited to appear before the House on Thursday, 30 November, 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

6. Presentation of Bill:

Remuneration of Former Presidents and Heads of State, Heads of Federal Legislative Houses and Chief Justices of the Federation (and Other Ancillary Matters) Bill, 2006 — *Read the First Time.*

7. Presentation of Emergency Powers Regulations:

{i) Emergency Powers (General) Regulations, 2006;

{ii) Emergency Powers (Restriction Orders) Regulations, 2006; {iii)

Emergency Powers (Reporting of Person) Regulation, 2006:

(iv) Emergency Powers (Detection of Persons) Regulations, 2006; (v)
Emergency Powers (Procession and Meetings, etc.) Regulations, 2006; (vi)
Emergency Powers (Curfew) Regulations, 2006; ¹ (vii) Emergency Powers
(Protected Places) Regulations, 2006; (viii) Emergency Powers (Control of Arms
and Explosives) Regulations, 2006. *Read; referred to the Committee on Justice.*

8. **A Bill for an Act to Establish a Customary Court for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and to Prescribe the Mode of its Operation; and Supervision, 2006 (HB. 172) — Third Reading:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish a Customary Court for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and to Prescribe the Mode of its Operation; and Supervision, 2006 be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abdul Ningi).

Question that the Bill be now read the Third Time, put and agreed to. Bill

read the Third Time and Passed.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for a Separate Legal and Regulatory Regime for the Downstream Gas Sector, Distinct from Upstream Gas; to Establish the Gas Regulatory Commission, to Provide for the Formation of the Nigerian Gas Transportation Company and Nigerian Gas Marketing Company; to Establish the Basic Principles for the Organisation and Regulation of the Downstream Gas Sector and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2006 (HB. 231) — Second Reading:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for a Separate Legal and Regulatory Regime for the Downstream Gas Sector, Distinct from Upstream Gas; to Establish the Gas Regulatory Commission, to Provide for the Formation of the Nigerian Gas Transportation Company and Nigerian Gas Marketing Company; to Establish the Basic Principles for the Organisation and Regulation of the Downstream Gas Sector and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2006 be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Abdul Ningi).

Debate:

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Joint Committee on Gas and Justice.

10. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 29 November, 2006 at 2.00 p.m. (Hon. Abdul Ningi).

Adjourned accordingly at 11.40 a.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker