



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

, 26 April, 2005

1. The House met at 11:00 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, 13 April, 2005.
By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcements:**
Mr Speaker informed the House that he had approved the following Communication by the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business:



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND BUSINESS
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THE THREE-ARMS ZONE
P.M.B. 141, GARKI ABUJA NIGERIA**

20 April, 2005

*The Honorable speaker,
House of Representatives,*

Sir,

ELECTORAL BILL, 2004.

Attached hereto is Electoral Bill, 2004 submitted by INEC. It has just come to my attention.

About 400 Copies of the Bill are with us in the House.

I requested your Excellency's approval as follows:

1. *That this Bill be listed for hearing in the name of the House Leader as Sponsor.*
2. *That pending Gazetting for public information, the copies available be distributed to Hon. Members as their working document in lieu of gazetting for records.*

3. *That giving the urgency the Bill be listed for 2nd reading from about April 26, 2005 so that it may be referred to the appropriate Committees for public hearing and possible passage by the House before May 30th, 2005.*

Please direct as appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Hon Ita Enang
Chairman
Rules and Business Committee

4. **Presentation of Bill:**
Electoral Bill, 2004—*Read The First Time.*
5. **Presentation of Report:**
Committee on Gas Resources:
Motion Made and Question Proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on Gas Resources on the Bill for an Act to Provide for the Implementation of the Treaty on the West African Gas Pipeline Project and the International Project Agreement; and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2004".

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid:

6. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Economic and financial Crimes Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2004 (HB. 131)—*Second Reading:***
Motion Made and Question Proposed, "That A Bill for an Act to Amend the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2004 be now read die Second Time" (Hon. Abdul Ningi).

Debate:

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

7. **Presentation and Consideration of Reports:**
(i) *Ad-Hoc Committee on the New Accounting guide for the National Assembly:*
Motion Made and Question Proposed, "That this House do receive and consider the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the New Accounting Guide for the National Assembly and approve the Recommendations therein' (Hon. Ita Enang).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Report, Agreed to

Question that Order W, Ride 2 (2) be suspended in order to enable the Speaker Chair the Committee of Whole, agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

NEW ACCOUNTING GUIDE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate:

Findings:

All the relevant sub-heads were critically examined in the light of the problems inherent in the current operations, the following remarks and suggestions were arrived at:

- (a) Local Travel and Tours: The committee suggest that, the current Local Travel a Tour should be broken into:**

- (i) **Constituency Tours:** These are trips undertaken by the legislator as either as constituency visit or tour. All expenses incurred on such trips may be regarded as non retireable (advance);
- (ii) **Other official Tours:** These are tours made outside the legislator's constituency, e.g. tours relating to Committee assignments. They are to be retired on the completion of the tour.

The current Duty Tour Allowance rates approved by the Presiding Officers and Accounting Officer as listed below are to be maintained:

Duty Tour Allowance Rates;

1.	Senate President	N35,100.00
2.	Hon. Speaker	N35,000.00
3.	Deputy Senate President	N33,700.00
4.	Hon. Deputy Speaker	N30,000.00
5.	Principal Officers (Senate)	N26,300.00
6.	Principal Officers (H/Reps)	N25,000.00
7.	Senators/Hon. Members	N20,000.00
8.	Clerk to the National Assembly	N20,000.00
9.	The Deputy Clerk to National Assembly, Clerk, Senate and Clerk, H/Representatives	N15,000.00

(Hon. Ita Enang).

Question, that paragraph (a) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (b) **Utility:**
The Committee suggests that payments for utility should be made directly to each member as non-retireable advance *(Hon. Ita Enang).*

Question, that paragraph (b) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (c) **Telephone:**
Similarly, funds paid to individual member under this sub-head should also be treated as non-retireable advance *(Hon. Ita Enang).*

Question, that paragraph (c) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (d) **Stationery:**
The committee agreed that, disbursement under this sub-head should be treated as non-retireable advance. However, this expenditure should be in accordance to the approved budgetary allocations *(Hon. Ita Enang).*

Question, that paragraph (d) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (e) **Maintenance of Office Equipment:**
This is also to be treated as non retireable advance *(Hon. Ita Enang).*

Question, that paragraph (e) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (f) **Maintenance of Motor Vehicle:**
The committee observed that, legislators make frequent visits to their constituencies, which are mostly in remote areas, where fuel may not be available at controlled price, and suggests that a specific amount should be provided on this sub-head as non retireable advance. The committee also agreed flat, this expenditure should be known, as "Motor Vehicle Running non-retireable advance" (Fueling and Maintenance)*(Hon. Ita Enang).*

Question, that paragraph (f) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (g) **Entertainment/Hospitality:**
Disbursement of funds made under this sub-head should be treated as non-retireable advance (Hon. Ita Enang).

Question, that paragraph (g) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (h) **Consultancy:**
Disbursement made on this sub-head should be treated as an advance to be retired on completion of the assignment (Hon. Ita Enang).

Question, that paragraph (h) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (i) **International Travel and Transport:**
Disbursement of funds under this sub-head should be regarded as an advance, which will be retired on completion of the trip, except the *estacode* and contingency components.

The Committee however, noted the inconsistency in the disbursement of contingency fund and recommends mat it should be standardised for all categories of legislators (Hon. Ita Enang)—Agreed to.

The Committee also reviewed the payment of *estacode* allowances and recommends that the existing *estacode* rates approved by the Presiding officers and the Accounting officer should be maintained as listed below:

Estacode Rates:		
1.	Senate President	1,300 USD
2.	Hon. Speaker	1,000 USD
3.	Deputy Senate President	790 USD
4.	Hon. Deputy Speaker	750 USD
5.	Senators	515 USD
6.	Hon. Members	500 USD
7.	Clerk to the National Assembly	500 USD
8.	Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly	450 USD
9.	Clerks, Senate and House of Representatives	400 USD

Note:

The differentials in the computation of DTA and Estacode Allowance is based on die basic salary approved by Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission.

CONTINGENCY FUND RATES

		<i>Trips of 1 week duration</i>	<i>Trips over 1 week duration</i>
1.	Senate President/Hon. Speaker	15,000 USD	20,000 USD
2.	Deputy Senate President/Hon. Deputy Speaker	10,000USD	15,000 USD
3.	Principal Officers	10,000 USD	12,000 USD
4.	Leader of Delegation	9,000 USD	11,000 USD
5.	Clerk to the National Assembly	8,000 USD	10,000 USD
6.	Deputy Clerk to die National Assembly	5,000 USD	7,000 USD
7.	Clerks, Senate and House of Representatives	2,300 US) Flat Rate	

(Hon. Ita Enang).

Question, that paragraph (i) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

(j) Miscellaneous:

Almost all the expenditure chargeable under this sub-head are mainly advances, and therefore retire-able. The medical expenditure, which also falls under this category, should be paid across board as medical allowance. However, any amount approved by the Presiding Officers and the Accounting Officer over and above the approved rate for medical allowance, should be treated as an advance, which must be retired (*See details at page 14*)(Hon Ita Enang).

Question, that paragraph (j) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

Administration of Contracts:

- (a) Contracts below N1 million:** In line with the general principle of contract administration in the public service, contracts not exceeding N1 million shall be approved by the Clerk to the National Assembly in a competitive manner (three quotations);(Hon. Ita Enang).

Question, that paragraph (a) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (b) Contracts above N1 million but below N50 million:** The composition of this Tenders Board is as follows: The Clerk to the National Assembly as Chairman, the Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly, the Clerks of the Senate and the House of Representatives and all other Directors as Members. The Secretary shall come from the Department of Planning and Legislative Budget (Hon. Ita Enang).

Question, that paragraph (b) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

Bank Loans:

Due to the peculiarities inherent in the legislation process Committee observed that, the legislature could not afford to be starved of funds. However, in the event of non release of funds to meet its financial obligations, and if it becomes so necessary, it is suggested that any of the legislative chambers, wishing to source funds from any financial institution should ensure that, such funds which must be approved by Presiding Officers and the Accounting Officer should not exceed 1/3 of the expected Quarterly allocation (*Hon. Ita Enang*)—Agreed to.

Observations:

The committee also took note of the Financial Regulations (FP 809) which states that, "Private money will in no circumstance be paid into an official bank account, nor any public money paid into a private account". The Committee therefore recommends that Senators and Hon. Members Office account' should be adopted to replace the present individual Member's account. The individual legislator, will however, be the sole signatory to the account, while the Personnel Emolument which is personal will continue to be paid into each legislators' personal account (*Hon. Ita Enang*)—Agreed to.

Recommendations:

- (i) Parliamentary Committees** are the hub of legislative activities and should therefore be adequately funded; (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question, that Recommendation (i) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (ii) Furthermore,** the committee recommends that, all the Parliamentary Committees should open bank account in the name of each Committee. with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Clerk and Secretary as Signatories to the account (*Hon. Ita Enang*). *Question, that*

Recommendation (ii) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

- (iii) The Committee** also recommends that a consultant should be engaged to produce the detailed accounting manual incorporating accounting code and audit guides. This should be under the supervision of this Committee (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question, that Recommendation (iii) stand part of the Guide, put and agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the New Accounting Guide for the National Assembly and approved the Guide.

Question, that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Whole, put and agreed to.

(ii) **Committee on Federal Capital Territory**

Motion Made and Question Proposed, "That this House do resume consideration of the Report of the House Committee on federal Capital Territory on A Bill far an Act to Authorize the Issue Out from the Federation Account; the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federal Government, and the Internally Generated Revenue Account of the Federal Capital Territory; the Sum of N52,880,195,390.00 (Fifty-Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Eighty Million, One Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Ninety Naira) Only of which the Sum of N10,798,790,390.00 (Ten Billion, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Three Hundred and Ninety Naira) Only is for Personnel Cost and the Sum of N5,359,425,000.00 (Five Billion, Three Hundred and Fifty-Nine Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand Naira)only is for Overhead Costs while the Balance of N36,721,980,000.00 (Thirty-Six Billion, Seven Hundred and Twenty-One Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Thousand Naira) Only is for Capital Projects for the Service of me Federal Capital Territory, Abuja' and approve me Recommendations therein" {Hon. Philip Aduda Tanimu).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Supply to consider the aforesaid Report- Agreed to.

(IN THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

SCHEDULE

Committee Recommendation:

(i)	Special Services	-	N500.000,000.00
-----	------------------	---	-----------------

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the figure f*500,000,000.00 and insert the figure N400,000,000.00 instead thereof (Hon. Abdul Oroh).

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

Committee Recommendation:

(ii)	FCT Anti-Corruption Secretariat/EFCC Support	—	N20,000,000.00
------	--	---	----------------

Question that the provision be deleted, put and agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

(iii)	Inter-Parry Relations	—	N 100,000,000.00
-------	-----------------------	---	------------------

Question that the provision be deleted, put and agreed to.

Order XII, Rule 16 (8):

Invoking Order XII, Rule 16 (8), Hon. Ita Enang observed that the procedure for considering me Federal Capital Territory Budget for the year 2005 in the Committee of Whole, was in breach of the Standing Orders of the House. He urged the Committee to revert to the procedure enunciated in the above Standing Order.

Order sustained.

Chairman to report Progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in the Committee of Supply resumed consideration of the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory on the Federal Capital Territory Budget 2005. It adjourned consideration of the Report till Wednesday, 27 April, 2005.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Whole, put and agreed to.

8. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 27 April, 2005 at 2.00 p.m (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.00 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari