



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 19 April, 2005

1. The House met at 11.10 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, 14 April, 2005.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Remarks by the Hon. Speaker:**
Mr Speaker expressed his profound gratitude to the House for its overwhelming support and encouragement to him following the death of his son, Mr Shamsudeen Bello Masari. He prayed that Allah would bless the House abundantly.
4. **Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:**
Mr Speaker read the following Message from the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134

30 March, 2005

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

Dear Hon. Speaker,

PASSAGE OF TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

I write to convey my sincere appreciation to you and other Honourable Members of the National Assembly for the passage of the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2005 which I had the pleasure of signing into law today.

The passage of the bill and my assent today is a glowing manifestation of the good that can be achieved for our dear nation through collaboration between the Executive and Legislative Arms of our government on all matters that are clearly in the national interest.

Through the passage of the bill by the National Assembly, labour unionism in the country has now been fully democratised in keeping with our departure from the past era of military rule and in conformity with international labour conventions.

I thank you and your colleagues in the National Assembly for giving all Nigerian workers, through your passage of the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2005, the unfettered freedom to freely exercise their right to join trade unions or federations of their choice.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

5. Announcements:

(i) Appreciation:

Mr Speaker read a letter by Hon. Faniyi Tolorunjuwon Joseph, expressing his appreciation to the House for its timely intervention in the Flood/Storm Disaster in Isalu/Jege Townships in Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State, *vide House Resolution 12/2005* of Thursday, 17 March, 2005:



Hon. (Chief) Faniyi Tolorunjuwon Joseph

Member, House of Representatives

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

National Assembly Complex, P.M.B. 141, Three Arms Zone, Abuja

Tel: 09-5234900-5, Ext. 2139, 0803 322 4004

18th April, 2005.

*The Honorable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.*

Dear Sir,

LETTER OF GRATITUDE FOR APPROVAL OF RELIEF MATERIALS FOR VICTIMS OF RAINSTORM DISASTER IN ISANLU/JEGE COMMUNITIES IN YAGBA EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KOGI STATE

Dear Sir,

Sequel to my motion of Thursday, 17 March, 2005. The House of Representatives deliberated on the above subject matter.

The House expressed concern at the level of destruction in human and materials terms in the affected areas as a result of Rainstorm.

Hence, this letter comes to convey my profound gratitude to you and the entire House for the role played for the prompt approval of Relief materials for the victims of the affected areas.

It will be recalled that Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness/Committee on Environment visited the place as mandated on Wednesday, April 6, 2005.

Through all these, you once again demonstrated your genuine concern for the hopeless through your mature handling of the matter, justice was done at the end. This is part of the dividend of Democracy.

I hereby convey the enormous gratitude of myself and the people of my Constituency to you.

Find attached photocopy of National Emergency Management Agency letter of Federal Government to the victims of the affected areas.

Thank you.

(Signed)

HON. T. J. FANIYI

Member, House of Representatives.

(ii) Obituary:

Mr Speaker announced with deep regret, the untimely death of Senator Amah C. Iwuagwu (*Owerri Senatorial District*), which sad event took place on Sunday, 17 April, 2005. He called for prayers, and a minute in silence in honour of the late Senator.

(Hon. John Longhor rendered prayers for the repose of the soul of the deceased and a minute in silence observed in his honour).

(iv) Bereavement:

Mr Speaker read a letter by Hon. Ezekiel Anakam acquainting the House of the death of His Highness (Obong) Rt Hon. Ikpe Umoh Imeh, a former Deputy Speaker of the Eastern House of Assembly and Member of the House of Representatives of the First Republic.

(v) House Business:

Mr Speaker informed the House of Notices by the Committee on Rules and Business and the Clerk of the House that the Report of the Committee on the Federal Capital Territory on the Statutory Budget of the Territory and the Report of the Committee on Works on the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission Bill respectively would be considered on Wednesday, 20 April, 2005. Copies of the two Reports had already been circulated; he advised Members to attend the Sitting with their copies of the Reports to save cost and legislative time.

6. Petition:

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

- (i)* Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah, from DSP Tayo L. Salami, a former Police Officer, praying the House to prevail on the Nigeria Police Force to comply with a court order and reinstate him.
- (ii)* Hon. Taofeek Arapaja, from Michael Olatoye Oyesola, praying the House to intervene in the matter of his wrongful dismissal by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and grant him the relief sought in the petition.
- (iii)* Hon. Taofeek Arapaja, from Rev. L. S. Rickettete, praying the House to intervene in the matter of his wrongful dismissal by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and grant him the relief sought in the petition.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

Invoking Order VIII, Rule 4 (1), Hon. Halims Agoda condemned the ban by the British Government on issuance of Visas to Nigerians between the ages of 18 and 30 who wish to travel to the United Kingdom. He described the ban as discriminatory and urged the House to debate the development as one of urgent public importance.

Question, that the Matter be debated put, and agreed to.

Question, that Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) be suspended to enable the House debate the Matter forthwith put, and agreed to.

8. U. K Visa Ban on Nigerian Youths.

Motion made and Question proposed,

“The House notes:

with dismay the recent ban on issuance of Visas for a period of two years, to Nigerians between the ages of 18 and 30 years who wish to travel the United Kingdom;

that the measure is targeted only at Nigeria to the exclusion of other countries, particularly within the sub region and is therefore discriminatory and intended to further dent the image of Nigeria;

that Nigeria is a peace loving nation, with remarkable contributions to the sustenance of world peace;

believes that the ban would not promote mutual political and economic cooperation between Nigeria and Great Britain;

observes that the British Government is insensitive to the feelings and yearnings of Nigerians given the historical and political ties between the two countries;

Resolves to:

- (i) *condemn* any act that might be contrived by our colonial masters to dent the image of the country before the international community;
- (ii) *urge* the Executive Arm of Government to seek explanations or clarification from the British Government on the new visa policy against a category of Nigerians;
- (iii) *invite* the Minister of Foreign Affairs to appear before the House to explain the recent development (*Hon. John Halims Agoda and 6 Others*).

Debate:

Matter referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs for Investigation.

9. Another Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Relying on Order VIII, Rule 4 (1), Hon. Alex Nwofe, drew the attention of the House to the violent conflict between Izzi Community in Ebonyi and Ukele Community in Cross River State which had led to loss of lives and property. He urged the House to discuss the sad incident as one of urgent public importance.

Question that the Matter be debated put and agreed to.

Question that Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) be suspended to enable the House debate the Matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

10. Conflict Between Izzi Community in Ebonyi State and Ukele Community in Cross River State:

Motion made and Question proposed, "The House notes:

the eruption of violent conflicts between the Izzi community in Ebonyi State and the Ukele community in Cross River State on Wednesday, 13 April, 2005, and the resultant loss of lives and property in the two communities;

that inhabitants of the two communities are now refugees in neighbouring communities without any means of sustenance;

that the contingents of Mobile Police men deployed to the troubled areas are unable to restore law and order;

that the chaotic traffic situation arising from the conflict has crippled commercial and economic activities in the areas and;

conscious of the urgent need to restore Law and Order, peace and stability to the warring communities;

Resolves to:

- (i) *condemn* the wanton destruction of lives and property as a result of the disturbances;
- (ii) *urge* the Federal Government to deploy security forces to quell the disturbances;
- (iii) *urge* National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently despatch relief materials to victims of the mayhem;
- (iv) *further urge* the Federal Government to set up a Commission of Enquiry to ascertain the immediate and remote causes of the conflicts;

- (v) *mandate* the House Committees on Police Affairs, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Peace and Conflict Resolution to liaise with the two Honourable Members representing the affected communities to visit the areas, ascertain the cause of the conflict, the extent of destruction of lives and property and make recommendations to the House” (*Hon. Alex Nwofe*).

Debate:

Main Question put and agreed to.

The House noted:

the eruption of violent conflicts between the Izzi community in Ebonyi State and the Ukele community in Cross River State on Wednesday, 13 April, 2005, and the resultant loss of lives and property in the two communities;

that inhabitants of the two communities are now refugees in neighbouring communities without any means of sustenance;

that the contingents of Mobile Police men deployed to the troubled areas are unable to restore law and order;

that the chaotic traffic situation arising from the conflict has crippled commercial and economic activities in the areas and;

conscious of the urgent need to restore Law and Order, peace and stability to the warring communities;

Resolved to:

- (i) *condemn* the wanton destruction of lives and property as a result of the disturbances;
- (ii) *urge* the Federal Government to deploy security forces to quell the disturbances;
- (iii) *urge* National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently despatch relief materials to victims of the mayhem;
- (iv) *further urge* the Federal Government to set up a Commission of Enquiry to ascertain the immediate and remote causes of the conflicts;
- (v) *mandate* the House Committees on Police Affairs, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Peace and Conflict Resolution to liaise with the two Honourable Members representing the affected communities to visit the areas, ascertain the cause of the conflict, the extent of destruction of lives and property and make recommendations to the House (*HR. 15/2005*).

11. Presentation of a Bill:

Mineral and Mining Bill, 2004 (HB. 87)—*Read the First Time*.

12. Presentation of Reports:

(i) Committee on Federal Capital Territory:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on Federal Capital Territory on the Federal Capital Territory Statutory Allocation Budget for year 2005” (*Hon. Philip Aduda Tanimu*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

(ii) Committee on Public Petitions:

- (a) *Motion made and Question proposed*, “That this House do receive the Reports of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Mr Nwoko Obi against the Nigeria Customs Service” (*Hon. Chudi Offidile*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

- (b) *Motion made and Question proposed*, “That this House do receive the Reports of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Mr Omodara Adebola against the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE)” (*Hon. Chudi Offodile*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

- (c) *Motion made and Question proposed*, “That this House do receive the Reports of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Prince O. B. A Uzama against the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company Limited (PPMC)” (*Hon. Chudi Offodile*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

- (d) *Motion made and Question proposed*, “That this House do receive the Reports of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Mr Abel N. Okpara against the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN)” (*Hon. Chudi Offodile*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

- (e) *Motion made and Question proposed*, “That this House do receive the Reports of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Mrs E. D. Agoro, Lagos State Co-coordinator of WRAPA against the Nigeria Police Force” (*Hon. Chudi Offodile*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

- (f) *Motion made and Question proposed*, “That this House do receive the Reports of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Janguza Development Association, Tofa Local Government Area of Kano State against the Nigeria Army” (*Hon. Chudi Offodile*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

13. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Police Service Commission (Establishment) Act, 2001 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2004 (HB. 114)—*Second Reading.*

Order Read; Bill by leave of the House withdrawn.

14. Adjournment

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 20 April, 2005 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.15 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker