



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 17 May, 2005

1. **The** House met at 11.07 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, 12 May, 2005.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcements:**
(i) *Communication:*
Mr. Speaker read a letter from the Hon. Minister of Finance.

URGENT



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE

-----Office of the Honourable Minister -----

P.M.B. 14, Garki
Central Area,
Abuja, Nigeria.

Tel: 09-2340932
-2346928
Fax: 09-2340903

DG./BDT./G EN ./COR./PA/VOL. 1/297

17 May, 2005

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

Honourable Speaker,

2005 FEDERAL BUDGET

We refer to our discussion on the issue of virement as it relates to the 2005 federal budget.

2. *We are pleased to inform you that the Budget Office of the Federation and the affected Ministries and Agencies are ready to discuss and agree this issue with the relevant joint committees of the National Assembly.*

3. *We shall therefore be grateful if you could please let us know when we can commence this exercise.*

4. *Please, accept, Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

(Signed) Dr. Ngozi
Okonjo-Iweala
Minister of Finance

Chairmen of Committees directed to liaise with the Committee on Appropriations and to ensure resolution of the Matter within one week.

(ii) *Visitors:*

Mr. Speaker acknowledged the presence in the gallery, of staff and students of the Political Science Department, Bayero University Kano,

4. *Petition:*

One petition was received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

Hon. Tsegba Terngu, from Widows of Army Officers who lost their lives in 1992, in the C-130 plane crash in Lagos, praying the House to intervene in their plight and grant the reliefs sought in their petition.

5. *Presentation of Bill:*

Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (Establishment Act) Bill, 2004 (SB. 7) — *Read the First Time.*

Executive Session: — 11.14 a.m.

Plenary: — 12.36 p.m.

6. *Presentation of Report:*

Status Report on the Demolition of Houses in Kubwa by the Federal Capital Development Authority:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Status Report on the Demolition of Houses in Kubwa by the Federal Capital Development Authority" (Hon. Alex Nwofe).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

Hon. Alex Nwofe informed the House that pursuant to House Resolution No. 17/2005 of 3 May, 2005, the Committee, in a letter, urged the Hon. Minister, Federal Capital Territory to halt the demolition exercise in Kubwa. The letter was duly served on the Hon. Minister. Hon. Nwofe expressed regret that in spite of the Committee's letter and the subsequent visit of the House to *the Locus in quo* on 4 May, 2005, the Hon. Minister continued with the demolition exercise up to yesterday, Monday, 16 May, 2005 inflicting untold distress on the residents. In the face of the continued defiance of the Resolution of the House by the Hon. Minister, the Committee resolved to urge the House to examine the Matter critically with a view to proffering a lasting solution.

Debate:

Ad-hoc Committee on the Demolition of Houses in Kubwa by the Federal Capital Development Authority mandated to commence a Public Hearing on Monday, 23 May, 2005.

7. *Non-Completion of Silo Complexes Awarded to Contractors by the Federal Government.*

Motion made and Question proposed, That

The House:

Notes that in 1987 the Federal Military Government of Nigeria enacted the Strategic Grains Reserves Policy to construct Silo Complexes across the country to provide food security;

Aware that the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, had over the years made substantial payments to the Contractors;

Concerned that in spite of the payments made to the Contractors, work remained dismal or even discontinued at many of the sites;

Disturbed that failure in the completion of the projects would adversely affect the Buyer-of-Last-Resort Programme of the Federal Government;

Resolves to:

Mandate the House Committee on Agriculture to:

- (i) *investigate* and establish the reasons for the failure of the contractors to complete the projects;
- (ii) *report* its findings and recommendations to the House within two months (*Hon. Ahmad Lawan and 16 others*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in 1987 the Federal Military Government of Nigeria enacted the Strategic Grains Reserves Policy to construct Silo Complexes across the country to provide food security;

Aware that the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, had over the years made substantial payments to the Contractors;

Concerned that in spite of the payments made to the Contractors, work remained dismal or even discontinued at many of the sites;

Disturbed that failure in the completion of the projects would adversely affect the Buyer-of-Last-Resort Programme of the Federal Government;

Resolved to:

Mandate the House Committee on Agriculture to:

- (i) *investigate* and establish the reasons for the failure of the contractors to complete the projects;
- (ii) *report* its findings and recommendations to the House within two months (**HR. 19/2005**).

8. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 18 May, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.25p.m.