



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 27 January, 2009

1. The House met at 10.50 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, 22 January, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**
(i) **Obituary:**
Mr Speaker announced with regret the death of Hon. Michael Amaechi Oje, a former Member of the House of Representatives (1979 - 1983).

A minute in silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) **Visitors:**

Mr Speaker announced the presence in the Gallery of:

- (a) Staff and Students of Government Secondary School, Karu, Abuja;
- (b) National Association of Political Science Students of the Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

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

- (i) Hon. Godfrey Ali Gaiya (*Jaba/Zango Kataf Federal Constituency*), from Mr John J. Aboi, praying the House to investigate his alleged victimization and forceful resignation from the services of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), with a view to re-instating him;
- (ii) Hon. Wole Oke (*Ijesha North/Obokun/Oviade Federal Constituency*), from Mr Abiodun Owoeye, praying the House to intervene in his alleged unjust suspension from the services of the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC);
- (ii) Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha (*Jsuikwato/Umuneochi Federal Constituency*), from 100 concerned Officers of the Nigeria Customs Service, praying the House to investigate the provision of circular No. PEN/63903/S.56/57, on the restoration of non-pensionability of the period of study leave without pay, with a view to ensuring justice;
- (iv) Hon. K. G. B. Oguakwa (*Aninri/Awgu Ojirwer Federal Constituency*), from Mrs Juliana Udeogu, praying the House to intervene in her alleged wrongful dismissal from the services of the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, with a view to re-instating her.

5 **Anticipation:**

Relying on Order IX, Rule 10, Hon. Ita Enang drew the attention of the House to a television interview granted by Hon. Dino Melaye on 27 January, 2009 on an Order of the Day, the Motion on "The Nigerian Communication Commission and Telecommunication Regulation in Nigeria". He pointed out that Hon. Dino Melaye in discussing the matter extensively on television, had anticipated the Day's Proceeding which was in violation of the Rules and in contempt of the House.

Ordered that, Hon. Ita Enang and Hon. Dino Melaye to meet with Mr Speaker to discuss the matter.

6. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Relying on Order VIII, Rule 4 (i), Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo notified the House on the non-functional lighting equipment at the Margaret Ekpo International Airport, Calabar, which made air travel to Calabar dangerous. He called on the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Revolving Loans Fund for Industry act to specify the sources of, and additional sums to be made available to the Fund thereof, the procedure and manner of Disbursement of monies contained therein to any industrial concern and provide for Other Matters appertain thereto — Third Reading:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Revolving Loans Fund for Industry act to specify the sources of, and additional sums to be made available to the Fund thereof, the procedure and manner of Disbursement of monies contained therein to any industrial concern and provide for Other Matters appertain thereto be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

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

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

8. **Consideration of Reports:**

(i) **Joint Committee on Governmental Affairs, Justice, and Judiciary:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do Consider the Report of the Joint Committee on Governmental Affairs, Justice and Judiciary on the investigation into the Abuse of the Right of Priority on the Highway ap'prove the Recommendation therein" (Hon. Ogor Leonard Okuweh).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into Committee of Whole to consider the Report, put and agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
JUSTICE AND JUDICIARY ON THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ABUSE
OF THE RIGHT OF PRIORITY ON THE HIGHWAY

Debate:

Recommendation:

The Joint Committee recommends that a substantive Bill on the subject matter be brought before the Parliament to put in proper perspective the use or otherwise of Siren, flasher and beacon light on our roads (*Hon. Ogor Leonard Okuweh*) — *Agreed to.*

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the Joint Committee on Governmental Affairs, Justice and Judiciary on the investigation into the Abuse of the Right of Priority on the Highway and approved the only recommendation therein.

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

(ii) *Committee on Interior:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Interior on a Bill for an Act to amend the Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap. PL. Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 so as to clearly define persons eligible for issuance of Diplomatic and Official Passport, 2008 (Hon. Jerry S. Manwe).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into Committee of Whole to consider the Report, put and agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE PASSPORT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACTS,
CAP. PI, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 so AS TO CLEARLY DEFINE PERSONS
ELIGIBLE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS

Amendment of Section 1.

Section 1 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by inserting immediately after the existing subparagraph (4), new paragraphs (5) and (6) as follows—

- (5) Notwithstanding the Provisions of any law in force, persons holding the offices hereinafter set out shall be eligible for the issuance of a diplomatic passport for the purposes of conducting their official duties—
- (i) President, Commander-in-Chief and spouse;
 - (ii) Vice President and spouse;
 - (iii) Senate President;
 - (iv) Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (v) Chief Justice of the Federation;
 - (vi) Deputy Senate President;
 - (vii) Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (viii) State Governors;
 - (ix) former Head of States;
 - (x) former Vice Presidents;
 - (xi) former Presidents of the Senate;
 - (xii) former Speakers of the House of Representatives;
 - (xiii) State Deputy Governors;
 - (xiv) Justices of the Supreme Court;
 - (xv) President of the Court of Appeal;
 - (xvi) Ministers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
 - (xvii) Secretary to the Government of the Federation;
 - (xviii) Head of Service to the Government of the Federation;
 - (xix) Clerk of the National Assembly;
 - (xix) Service Chiefs;

- (xxi) Inspector General of Police;
 - (xxii) Heads of Para-military institutions
 - (xxiii) Heads of Mission and Foreign Service Officers accredited to Nigerian Missions abroad and their spouses;
 - (xxiv) Defence Attaches and their Deputies in all Nigerian Mission's abroad;
 - (xxv) Immigration, Information and Custom Attaches in Nigerian Mission's abroad;
 - (xxvi) Heads of Security Agencies in Nigeria;
 - (xxvii) any person for whom the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria using his prerogative specially approves the holding of Diplomatic passport.
- (6) Official passports shall be issued to such category of Public Officers only for the conduct of official duties as the Minister may deem fit in the circumstances (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe*).

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out all the provisions in subsection (5) and Insert the following instead thereof:*
- (5) Notwithstanding the Provisions of any law in force, persons holding the offices hereinafter set out shall be eligible for the issuance of a diplomatic passport for the purposes of conducting their official duties—
- (i) President, Commander-in-Chief and spouse;
 - (ii) Vice President and spouse;
 - (iii) Senate President;
 - (iv) Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (v) Chief Justice of the Federation;
 - (vi) Deputy Senate President;
 - (vii) Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (viii) Members of the National Assembly;
 - (ix) State Governors;
 - (x) former Head of States;
 - (xi) former Vice Presidents;
 - (xii) former Presidents of the Senate;
 - (xiii) former Deputy Senate Presidents;
 - (xiv) former Speakers of the House of Representatives;
 - (xv) former Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives;
 - (xvi) State Deputy Governors;
 - (xvii) Justices of the Supreme Court;
 - (xviii) President of the Court of Appeal;
 - (xix) Ministers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
 - (xx) Secretary to the Government of the Federation;
 - (xxi) Head of Service to the Government of the Federation;

- (xxii) Clerk of the National Assembly;
- (xxiii) Service Chiefs;
- (xxiv) Inspector General of Police;
- (xxv) Heads of Para-military institutions
- (xxvi) Heads of Mission and Foreign Service Officers accredited to Nigerian Missions , abroad and their spouses;
- (xxvii) Defence Attaches and their Deputies in all Nigerian Mission's abroad;
- (xxviii) Immigration, Information and Custom Attaches in Nigerian Mission's abroad;
- (xxix) Heads of Security Agencies in Nigeria;
- (xxx) any person for whom the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria using his prerogative specially approves the holding of Diplomatic passport (*Hon. Leo Ogor*).

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

(if) Insert a new number (xxxi) as follows:

"Speakers of States Houses of Assembly" (*Hon. Friday Itulah*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negated.

Question that Section 1 as amended, stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Amendment of Section 7.

Section 7 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by inserting the word "amendment" immediately after the bracket (Miscellaneous Provisions) in the Short Title as follows—

Citation.

This Act may be cited as the Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe*) — Agreed to.

Question that Section 1 as amended, stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts, Cap. PI, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 so as to Clearly Define Persons Eligible for the Issuance of Diplomatic and Official Passports: *Question that a Bill for an Act to Amend the Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts, Cap. PI, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 so as to Clearly Define Persons Eligible for the Issuance of Diplomatic and Official Passports be the Long Title of the Bill, put and agreed.*

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Interior on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts Cap. PI, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 so as to Clearly Define Persons Eligible for the Issuance of Diplomatic and Official Passports and amended Sections 1 and 7 and approved the Long Title of the Bill.

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

9. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 28 January, 2009 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:40 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole

Speaker