



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 11 February

1. The House met at 2.50 p.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 10 February, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Presentation of Bills:**

- (i) Commodities Exchange Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Patent (Additional Rights, etc.) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Colleges of Education (Powers to Award Degrees, etc.) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Immigration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) (Amendment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*

4. **The Need to Evacuate Vessels and Products Impounded by the Joint Military Task-force in the Niger Delta Area to Avoid Outbreak of Fire and Explosions:?**

Motion made and Question proposed,
The House:

Notes the operation of the Joint Military Task Force established primarily by the Federal Government to maintain peace and security in the Niger-Delta Region;

Further notes that the Military activities of the Joint Military Task-Force have led to the impounding of vessels and barges used by criminals for illegal oil bunkering in the region;

Worried that the impounded vessels and barges have constituted a major blockage to the free entry into major sea-ports in the region;

Further worried that the vessels' and barges contain fuel and other petroleum products which are highly inflammable and with a spark of fire could lead to explosion causing a fire outbreak in the port;

Disturbed that the blockage caused by these vessels and barges are presently constituting pollution and poor sanitary conditions in the ports;

Aware that the operations of the Joint Military Task-Force in curbing the activities of criminals involved in illegal oil bunkering do engage in occasional sporadic exchange of gunshot with the criminals which could lead to explosion of the impounded vessels and barges;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) to put necessary measure(s) in place to evacuate the products in the impounded vessels and barges;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to recommend to the House ways on how best these vessels and barges could be disposed of. (*Hon Bassey E. Otu and 58 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), line 1, *leave out* the words "the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in Payer (ii) (*Hon. Gbenga Makanjuola*).

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

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
"that the committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) and Committee on Defence should jointly oversee how the items seized by the Joint Task Force (JTF) can be best disposed" (*Hon. Oluwale Oke*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iv) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
"That the relevant Federal Government agencies should prosecute the owner of the impounded vessels and barges after the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) have put necessary measure(s) in place to remove the product therein" (*Hon. Aro Bamidele*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (v) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
"mandate the House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to investigate the circumstances that led to the congestion of the vessels and barges" (*Hon. Abdullahi Faruk*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (vi) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
"urge the Department of Customs and Exercise to be involved in the evacuation of the products in the impounded vessels and barges" (*Hon. Gbenga Elegbeleye*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the operation of the Joint Military Task-Force established primarily by the Federal Government to maintain peace and security in the Niger-Delta Region;

Further noted that the Military activities of the Joint Military Task-Force have led to the impounding of vessels and barges used by criminals for illegal oil bunkering in the region;

Worried that the impounded vessels and barges have constituted a major blockage to the free entry into major sea-ports in the region;

Further worried that the vessels and barges contain fuel and other petroleum products which are highly inflammable and with a spark of fire could lead to explosion causing a fire outbreak in the port;

Disturbed that the blockage caused by these vessels and barges are presently constituting pollution and poor sanitary conditions in the ports;

Aware that the operations of the Joint Military Task-Force in curbing the activities of criminals involved in illegal oil bunkering do engage in occasional sporadic exchange of gunshot with the criminals which could lead to explosion of the impounded vessels and barges;

Resolved to:

Call on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) to put necessary measure(s) in place to evacuate the products in the impounded vessels and barges (HR. 05/2009).

5. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology and for Allied Professional Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — *Second Reading*.
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology and for Allied Professional Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

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 Science and Technology and Health.

6. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment and Operation of Program to Enable Certain Persons to Receive Protection in Relation to Certain Inquiries, Investigations or Prosecutions, 2008 — *Second Reading*:

Order read; deferred.

7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Boundary Commission (Amendment) Act, 2006, No. 12 so as to make appointment of some members for the Commission to be full-time as Commissioners, 2008 — *Second Reading*:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Boundary Commission (Amendment) Act, 2006, No. 12 so as to make appointment of some members for the Commission to be full-time as Commissioners, 2008 be now read a Second Time" (Hon. David Idoko).

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 Special Duties and Justice.

8. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 12 February, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Adjourned accordingly at 4.10 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker