



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 6 November, 2008

1. The House met at 10.58 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 5 November, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcement:**
Invitation:
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the invitation of all Hon. Members to the World Road Traffic Accident Victims Remembrance Run, organized by the Federal Road Safety Commission on Saturday, 8 November, 2008 at 6.30 a.m. He further announced the presence in the Gallery, of the Corps Marshal and Chief Executive, Federal Road Safety Commission, Osita Chidoka.
4. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:
 - (i) Hon. Bitrus B. Kaze (*Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*), on behalf of Mrs Kangyang Nyam, praying the House to investigate her unjustified retirement from the services of NIPOST with a view to re-instating her and granting other reliefs sought therein;
 - (ii) Hon. Gbenga Oduwaiye (*Ijebu-Ode/Ijebu North East/Odogbolu Federal Constituency*), on behalf of Mrs Tokunbo Lijabu-Oyemade, praying the House to investigate her compulsory retirement from the services of ECOWAS Commission, with a view to re-instating her;
 - (iii) Hon. Linda Chuba Ikpeazu (*Onitsha Nordi/Onitsha South Federal Constituency*), on behalf of Okelue Berth Emeka, praying the House to intervene in his alleged unlawful dismissal from the services of the Nigerian Customs Service, with a view to re-instating him and paying all outstanding salaries;
 - (iv) Hon. Peter Linus Umoh (*Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong/Oruku Federal Constituency*), from Save Effiat Community Coalition and Mbo Youdis Coalition, Effiat-Mbo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, praying the House to intervene in the alleged direct to peace, impending crisis and ecological disaster in their communities, due to the conspiracy of oil exploration and production companies in the area, with a view to seeing that justice is done.
5. **Presentation of Bills:**
 - (i) Ecological Disaster (Control) Commission Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
 - (ii) Energy Development Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

6. Presentation of Reports:

(I) **Committee on Public Accounts:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the 2007/2008 Sessional Report of the Committee on Public Accounts" (*Hon. Uche Ekwunife*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **Committee on Public Procurement:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the 2007/2008 Sessional Report of the Committee on Public Procurement" (*Hon. Tuggar Yusuf Maitama*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) **Committee on Agriculture:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Agriculture on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap V3 LFN, 2004 to provide for the Registration of Veterinary Surgeons and for other Related Matters, 2008" (*Hon. Gbenga Makanjuola*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) **Joint Committee on Judiciary and Justice:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Judiciary and Justice on the Appointment of Chairman and Commissioner of the Nigerian Law Reform Commission" (*Hon. Bala Ibn Na 'Allah*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

7. Deplorable State of Education in Nigeria:

Motion made and Question proposed.

The House:

Notes that the standard of education in Nigeria at all levels has reached its lowest ebb;

Concerned that the result of the 2008 WAEC examination was very poor to the extent that only 13% of candidates that sat for the examination scored 5 credits including English language and Mathematics;

Appreciates that education is critical and indeed the most important vehicle to achieving high qualitative development of any country;

Aware that the poor performance recorded at the last WAEC examination is a manifestation of the level of decay in our educational systems at all levels of government;

Disturbed by the passive approach of the Federal Government and Ministry of Education towards addressing the grievous problems;

Further disturbed that if urgent steps are not taken to address the problems militating against the performance of our education systems, the vision of the Federal Government to develop Nigeria into an economic hub among the Committee of Nations will be defeated;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency in the educational sector;

- (ii) Further urge the Government to improve the funding of education at all levels;
- (iii) Mandate the House Committee on Education to investigate the reason(s) for this year's mass failure in WAEC, with a view to finding lasting solution to the menace, and report back to the House within one month (*Hon. Dino Melaye and 96 Others*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayers (i), (ii) and (iii) and insert the following instead thereof:

"Mandate the House Committee on Education to find out the causes of the continuing decay in the educational sector and proffer solutions" (Hon. Emmanuel Jime).

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

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the standard of education in Nigeria at all levels has reached its lowest ebb;

Concerned that the result of the 2008 WAEC examination was very poor to the extent that only 13% of candidates that sat for the examination scored 5 credits including English language and Mathematics;

Appreciated that education is critical and indeed the most important vehicle to achieving high qualitative development of any country;

Aware that the poor performance recorded at the last WAEC examination was a manifestation of the level of decay in our educational systems at all levels of government;

Disturbed by the passive approach of the Federal Government and Ministry of Education towards addressing the grievous problems;

Further disturbed that if urgent steps were not taken to address the problems militating against the performance of our education systems, the vision of the Federal Government to develop Nigeria into an economic hub among Committee of Nations would be defeated;

Resolved to:

Mandate the House Committee on Education to find out the causes of the continuing decay in the educational sector and proffer solutions (HR. 63/2008).

8. Shut down of Nigerian Businesses in Ghana:

Order read; Motion by leave of the House withdrawn.

9. A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Rehabilitation Commission to Provide Support for Prisons in Areas of Reformation, Education and Youthful Offender Programming; and for Other Connected Purposes, 2008 — *Second Reading:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Rehabilitation Commission to Provide Support for Prisons in Areas of Reformation, Education and Youthful Offender Programming; and for Other Connected Purposes, 2008 be now read a Second Time (Hon. Austine Nwachukwu).

Debate:

Bill consolidated with Prisons Bill, 2008 and referred to the Joint Committee on Interior and Justice.

10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Compulsory Free Universal Basic Education Act, 2004, and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — *Second Reading:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Compulsory Free Universal Basic Education Act, 2004, and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 be now read a Second Time (Hon. Kayode Jelili Amusan).

Debate:

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

- 11. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Accounting Standards Board Act, No. 22 of 2003 and Enact the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act and for Related Matters, 2008 — (Adjourned Debate 10/9/2008):**

Order read; deferred.

- 12. Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 11 November, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.11 p.m.

Usman Bayero Nafada
Deputy Speaker