



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 2 December, 2008

1. The House met at 10.55 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, 27 November, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Petition:**
A petition was received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions :

Hon. Halims O. Agoda (*Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*), from Mr Festus Ede Ijerhe, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful termination from the services of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)/Petroleum Product Marketing Company (PPMC) with a view to reinstating him or converting his retrenchment to retirement.

4. **Presentation of Bill:**
National Boundary Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance.**
Rising on Order VIII, Rule 4(1) and (2), Hon. Abdul Ningi drew the attention of the House to the unfortunate mayhem in Jos, Plateau State following the Local Government election in that State as a result of which over 500 people lost their lives and several property worth millions of Naira lost. He prayed the House to debate the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

Question that Order VIII Rule4 (3) be suspended forthwith, put and agreed to.

6. **Joint Session of the National Assembly:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That pursuant to Standing Order XV, Rule 9 of the House, this House do resolve to admit to its Chamber, Honourable Ministers, State Governors and Top Government Functionaries to receive an Address by the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the 2009 Budget Estimates" (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Question put and agreed to.

The Unfortunate Jos (Plateau State) Mayhem of Friday, 28th to Sunday, 30th November, 2008:
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes with utmost concern the unfortunate carnage in Jos, Plateau State Capital, of the last weekend which resulted in the killing of over 500 people as at Monday, 1st December, 2008;

Aware that the mayhem did not stop at the loss of human lives, but also, properties worth billions of Naira were destroyed during the three days of the unfortunate incidence;

Concerned that hundreds of other innocent people had been wounded, some of whom were in various hospitals in Jos and other neighbouring States;

Further concerned that many more people had been forced out of their homes and had fled to seek refuge either in public buildings or in some cases neighbouring villages, town and States to save their dear lives;

Worried that the untold hardships brought about by the carnage portend enormous dangers to even the unaffected surveyors apart from those directly affected who must have lost their means of livelihood and properties or sustained injuries or even lost their beloved ones;

Resolves to:

- (i) Condemn in the strongest terms this shameful and unfortunate sectarian crisis that engulfed Jos, Plateau State leading to wanton destruction of lives and properties, and untold hardships to people in the State (Nigerians and foreigners alike);
- (ii) Commiserate with all those innocent families who lost their beloved ones and properties or sustained injuries during the skirmishes and appeal for restraint, calm and a spirit of forgiveness;
- (iii) Urge all the Federal, States and Local Government Relief Agencies to provide relief materials and services to the affected victims immediately;
- (iv) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to thoroughly investigate the incident and report back to the House in two months (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Debate:

7. Debate Suspended,

Sitting Suspended — 12.10 p.m.

Joint Session of the National Assembly — 12.15 p.m.

End of Joint Session — 1.40 p.m.

(See Votes and Proceedings of Joint Session)

Resumption of Sitting — 1.47 p.m.

Resumption of Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"Call on the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency in the State pending the outcome of the investigation" (*Hon. Ahmed Idris*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"Call on the Plateau State Government to set up a Judicial Commission of inquiry to look into the immediate and remote causes of the incident" (*Hon. Bitrus Kaze*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted with utmost concern the unfortunate carnage in Jos, Plateau State Capital, of the last weekend which resulted in the unfortunate killing of over 500 people as at Monday, 1st December, 2008;

Aware that the mayhem did not stop at the loss of human lives, but also, properties worth billions of Naira were destroyed during the three days of the unfortunate incidence;

Concerned that hundreds of other innocent people had been wounded, some of whom were in various hospitals in Jos and other neighbouring States;

Further concerned that many more hundreds had been forced out of their homes and had fled to seek refuge either in public buildings or in some cases neighbouring villages, town and States to save their dear lives;

Worried that the untold hardships brought about by the carnage portend enormous dangers to even the unaffected surveyors talk less of those directly affected who must have lost their means of livelihood and properties or sustained wounds and injuries or even lost their beloved ones;

Resolved to:

- (i) Condemn in the strongest terms this shameful and unfortunate sectarian crisis that engulfed Jos, Plateau State leading to wanton destruction of lives and properties, and untold hardships to people in the State (Nigerians and foreigners alike);
- (ii) Commiserate with all those innocent families who lost their beloved ones and properties or sustained injuries during the skirmishes and appeal for restraint, calm and a spirit of forgiveness;
- (iii) Urge all the Federal, States and Local Government Relief Agencies to provide relief materials and services to the affected victims immediately;
- (iv) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to thoroughly investigate the incident and report back to the House in two months (**HR. 67/2008**).

8. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 3 December, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.50 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker