



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 24 July, 2008

1. The House met at 10.25 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 22 July, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcement:**
Visitor:
Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Gallery, of Students of Akwa Ibom State in the Nigerian Law School, Bwari, Abuja.
4. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:
 - (i) Hon. Peace Nnaji (*Nkanu East/West Federal Constituency*), from T. Amaechi Ngene on behalf of Felix Nwatu, a retired Police officer, praying the House to investigate his alleged unlawful retirement from the Nigeria Police Force with a view to reinstating him;
 - (ii) Hon. Peace Nnaji (*Nkanu East/West Federal Constituency*), from Joseph Emeka Abia, praying the House to investigate his alleged unlawful expulsion from the Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa, with a view to grant the reliefs sought therein;
 - (iii) Hon. Godfrey Ali Gaiya (*Jaba/Zangon Kataf Federal Constituency*), from retired Lieutenant Solomon Damince, praying the House to intervene in his alleged unlawful dismissal from the Nigerian Army, with a view to reinstating him;
 - (iv) Hon. Patty Etete (*Ikot Ekpene Federal Constituency*), from Faith E. E. Umoh, praying the House to investigate her unlawful retirement from the Nigerian Customs Service and grant the reliefs sought therein;
 - (v) Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon (*Credo Federal Constituency*), from Theresa Osaremen I. Usen, praying the House to investigate the circumstances of the termination of her appointment by the Principal
 - (vi) Hon. Gabriel Edi (*Ogoja/Yala Federal Constituency*), from Damian Nduka (*rtd*), praying the House to prevail on the Military Pensions Board to commence the payment of his pension benefits.

5. Presentation of Report:
National Assembly Delegation to the Pan-African Parliament:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the National Assembly Delegation to the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Pan-African Parliament held in South Africa between 5th-16th May, 2008" (*Hon. Betty Apiafi*).
- Question put and agreed to.*
- Report laid.*
- Report referred to the Committee on Legislative Compliance.*
6. **Appropriations (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — Second Reading:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Appropriations (Amendment) Bill, 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 Appropriations and Finance.*
7. **Crisis in the Niger Delta:**
Motion made and Question proposed,
- The House:
- Concerned* about the deteriorating crisis situation in the Niger Delta where hostage-taking, kidnapping and other forms of militant activities like: Youth restiveness, Oil Bunkering, Pipeline Vandalization etc are becoming prevalent and more worrisome;
- Recalls* the numerous agitations of the people in the Niger Delta from pre-colonial times, aimed at drawing the attention of the Government of Nigeria to the developmental problems of the area;
- Condemns* any resort to hostage-taking or any other forms of criminality as a means of expressing anger, frustration, and or drawing attention to this national problem;
- Appreciates* the various programmes and efforts of previous administrations in ensuring the rapid development of the area and the desire of the present administration in finding sustainable solution to the problems of Niger Delta.
- Resolves to:*
- (i) Call on the people of the Niger Delta to exercise more restraint in the approach being adopted in demanding for immediate solution to the problem of the Niger Delta;
 - (ii) Condemn all criminals approaches adopted under the cover of the struggle for the development of Niger Delta;
 - (iii) Urge the Federal Government to immediately engage in constructive and effective dialogue with the representatives of the Niger Delta to work out sustainable plan for the development of the area;
 - (iv) Mandate the House Committee on Legislative Compliance to monitor the implementation of this Resolution and report to the House on monthly basis (*Hon. Andrew I. Uchendu and 92 Others*).
- Debate:*

Amendment Proposed:

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

"Set up a Special Ad-Hoc Committee to Conduct a Public Hearing into the crisis in the Niger Delta and make recommendations to the House" (Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Concerned about the deteriorating crisis situation in the Niger Delta where hostage-taking, kidnapping and other forms of militant activities like: Youth restiveness, Oil Bunkering, Pipeline Vandalization etc are becoming prevalent and more worrisome;

Recalled the numerous agitations of the people in the Niger Delta from pre-colonial times, aimed at drawing the attention of the Government of Nigeria to the developmental problems of the area;

Condemned any resort to hostage-taking or any other forms of criminality as a means of expressing anger, frustration, and or drawing attention to this national problem;

Appreciated the various programmes and efforts of previous administrations in ensuring the rapid development of the area and the desire of the present administration in finding sustainable solution to the problems of Niger Delta.

Resolved to:

Set up a Special Ad-Hoc Committee to Conduct a Public Hearing into the crisis in the Niger Delta and make recommendations to the House **(HR. 40/2008)**.

8. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 29 July, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. *(Hon. Tunde Akogun).*

Adjourned accordingly at 2.25 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, July 22, 2008:

On page 84, under "Report of the Committee on Rules and Business on the Review of the House Standing Orders", *insert the following:*

Order VIII, Rule 3 (6):

Leave out all the words in the entire provision (Hon. C I. D. Maduabum).

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