



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 30 July, 2008

1. The House met at 2:35 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, 29 July, 2008.
By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Message:**
Mr Speaker read the following Message from the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



PRESIDENT,

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

July 25, 2008

*The Rt Hon. Dimeji Bankole,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear brother,

BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ENACTMENT INTO LAW

I hereby introduce for formal consideration and enactment into law, the following Bills:

1. *Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission.*
2. *Gurara Water Management Agency.*
3. *Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency*
4. *National Food Reserve Agency.*
5. *National Agricultural Seeds Council.*
6. *Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service.*
7. *National Agriculture Development Fund.*

While I hope that the Bills will receive the usual prompt attention of the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. Gilbert Nnaji (*Enugu East/Isi Uzo Federal Constituency*), from Mr Simeon Chukwu and 3 other former staffs of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, praying the House to prevail on the Management of the NNPC to convert their termination to retirement to enable them obtain their retirement benefits;
- (ii) Hon. Gilbert Nnaji (*Enugu East/Isi Uzo Federal Constituency*), from Cpl Titus Olowu, praying the House to investigate his alleged wrongful dismissal from the Nigeria Police Force with a view to re-instating him and granting other reliefs sought therein;
- (iii) Hon. Kayode Idowu (*Odo-Otin/Ifelodun/Boripe Federal Constituency*), from Mr T. Akin Oyewole, Chairman Southwest Refinery Petrochemical Company Limited, praying the House to prevail on the Department of Petroleum Resources of the Ministry of Petroleum Resources to issue his company with a "License to Construct" allegedly withheld despite approval;
- (iv) Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (*Zuru/Danko/Wasagu/Sakaba Fakai Federal Constituency*), from Messrs Uzoije Ukau Muna and Mairiga Ibrahim of Maritime Workers Union, praying the House to prevail on the Ministry of Labour and Productivity to comply with the Court Order granted in their favour;
- (v) Hon. Mika'il A. Bmitasahi (*Chanchaga Federal Constituency*), from Lance Corporal Fwangs Jacob, praying the House to investigate his alleged dismissal from the Nigerian Air Force with a view to ensuring that justice prevailed.

5. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

- (a) Relying on Order VIII, Rule 4, Hon. Ali Attai Aidoko drew the attention of the House to the collapsed Four Storey Building under construction in Jabi, Utako District of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja on Tuesday, 29 July, 2008. He stated that about a hundred people were feared trapped in the collapsed building and suspected a breach of the National Building Code. He sought the leave of the House to debate the matter as one of urgent public importance.

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) to debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

6. Collapsed Building Under Construction in Utako District of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja:

Motion made and Question proposed,
The House,

Notes with grief, the collapse of a massive building under construction in Utako District of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja yesterday, 29 July, 2008;

Further notes with grave concern, that hundreds of innocent persons have been trapped in the rubble of the collapsed building;

Suspects a breach of the National Building Code in the construction of the said building resulting in its collapse and consequent loss of lives and injuries to many persons;

Mindful, of its responsibilities to the residents of the Federal Capital Territory under Section 299 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and all relevant agencies involved in the rescue and recovery operation to intensify efforts towards speedy rescue of the casualties;
- (ii) Further urge the House to investigate the cause of this collapse and recommend measures to avert further incidents;
- (iii) Commiserate with the families of those involved in the tragic incident (*Hon. Attai Aidoko*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:
"Mandate the House Committee on Federal Capital Territory Administration to invite the Hon. Minister of FCT to brief the House on steps and measures taken to forestall the re-occurrence of this incidence" (*Hon. Emmanuel Jime*).

Question put and agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert & new Prayer (v) as follows:*
"Mandate the Joint Committee of FCT and Housing and Habitat to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the collapsed building and report back to the House within two weeks" (*Hon. Overah Joyce*).

Question put and agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*
"Mandate the relevant Committee of the House to investigate the Department of Development Control, Federal Capital Territory Administration" (*Hon. Dino Melaye*).

Question put and agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*
"Mandate the Relevant Committee to investigate the professionals involved in the construction and supervision of the said building with a view to suspending them or having their professional Certificate withdrawn" (*Hon. Patrick Ikhariale*).

Question put and negatived.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House,

Noted with grief, the collapse of a massive building under construction in the Utako District of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja yesterday, 29 July, 2008;

Further noted with grave concern, that hundreds of innocent persons have been trapped in the rubble of the collapsed building;

Suspected a breach of the National Building Code in the construction of the said building resulting in its collapse and consequent loss of lives and injuries to many persons;

Mindful, of its responsibilities to the residents of the Federal Capital Territory under Section 299 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and all relevant agencies involved in the rescue and recovery operation to intensify efforts towards speedy recovery of the casualties;
- (ii) Further urge the House to investigate the cause of this collapse and recommend measures to avert further incidents.

- (iii) Commiserate with the families of those involved in the tragic incident;
- (iv) Mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory Administration to invite the Hon. Minister of FCT to brief the House on steps and measures taken to forestall the re-occurrence of this incidence;
- (v) Mandate the Joint Committee of FCT and Housing and Habitat to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the collapsed building and report back to the House in two weeks;
- (vi) Mandate the relevant Committee of the House to investigate the Department of Development Control, Federal Capital Territory Administration (**HR. 43/2008**).
- (b) Pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 4(1) Hon. Abdullahi Farouk informed the House of threats to National Security and Economic Interest as a result of illegal export and import operations at Niger Dock premises. He stated that the core investors of Niger Dock namely, GEC Shipyards and Marine Contractors (Africa) Limited had been conducting illegal operations of Mid-Stream and Offshore discharge of Cargo and private Jetty operations. He further stated that there was absence of Security Agencies at the premises of Niger Dock and urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance.

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) to debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

7. Threats to National Security and Economic Interests of Nigeria at Niger Dock Premises:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that since 15th November, 2007, the Federal Ministry of Transport and the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) had jointly and severally tried to stop the Core Investors of Niger Dock, that is GEC Shipyards and Marine Contractors (Africa) Limited from conducting illegal operations of Mid-Stream and Offshore discharge of Cargo and private Jetty operations to no avail;

Further notes that the premises of Niger Dock are not designated for International Port Operations for Export and Import hence do not have scrutinizing facilities of digitalized scanners and the presence of designated Port Security Agencies (Customs, Police, Immigration, SSS, NDLEA, SON, NAFDAC, FEPA, etc.);

Aware that the share purchase agreement on Niger Dock as executed between the GEC Shipyards and Marine Contractors (Africa) Limited and the Bureau of Public Enterprises BPE, limited its scope of work to ship repairs, Shipbuilding, ship maintenance and Offshore fabrication only and do not include routine international ports operations of Exports and Imports;

Also aware that there was a Presidential Orders dated 22nd May, 2008, prohibiting the use of private Jetties for Mid-Stream discharge operations in Nigeria purposely made to stop the use of the private Jetties in the illegal importation of Arms and Ammunition for the use of Militants and men of the underworld;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Joint Committee of National Security and Intelligence, Customs and Excise, Marine Transport and Privatization and Commercialization to thoroughly investigate the alleged Gross Violations of our existing Laws and Threats to National Security and Economic Interests by the Core Investors of the Niger Dock Plc (*Hon. Abdullahi Farouk*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the provision in the Prayer and insert the following instead thereof:

"Mandate the Leadership of the House to summon the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff, Inspector General of Police, Director General, State Security Service, Director Intelligence Services, Minister of Transportation and Comptroller-General of Customs to brief the House on the security report at the Niger Dock" (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Question put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

The House,

Noted that since 15th November, 2007, the Federal Ministry of Transport and the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) had jointly and severally tried to stop the Core Investors of Niger Dock, that is GEC Shipyards and Marine Contractors (Africa) Limited from conducting illegal operations of Mid-Stream and Offshore discharge of Cargo and private Jetty operations to no avail;

Further note 'that the premises of Niger Dock are not designated for International Port Operations for Export and Import hence do not have scrutinizing facilities of digitalized scanners and the presence of designated Port Security Agencies (Customs, Police, Immigration, SSS, NDLEA, SON, NAFDAC, FEPA, etc.);

Aware that the share purchase agreement on Niger Dock as executed between the GEC Shipyards and Marine Contractors (Africa) Limited and the Bureau of Public Enterprises BPE, limited it's scope of work to ship repairs, Shipbuilding, ship maintenance and Offshore fabrication only and did not include routine international ports operations of Exports and Imports;

Also aware that there were Presidential Orders dated 22nd May, 2008, prohibiting use of private Jetties for Mid-Stream discharge operations in Nigeria purposely made to stop the use of the private Jetties in the illegal importation of Arms and Ammunition for the use of the Militants and men of the underworld;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Leadership of the House to summon the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff, Inspector General of Police, Director General of State Security Service, Minister of Transportation and Comptroller-General of Customs to brief the House on the allegations (HR. 44/2008).

8. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Federal Cooperative College (Establishment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) National Integrated Rural Development Agency Establishment Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

9. Presentation of Reports:

- (i) **Committee on Privatization and Commercialization:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Privatization and Commercialization on the investigation into the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE) Concessioning of the Apapa Seaport Terminals C & D, pursuant to Order XIV, Rule 3 (in) and Order XVIIIB, Rule 54 (2) (a) (b) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives" (Hon. Njida Gel la).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

- (ii) **Committee on Privatization and Commercialization:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Privatization and Commercialization on the investigation into the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE) Concessioning of the Lagos International Trade Fair Complex, Pursuant to Order XIV, Rule 3 (iii) and Order XVIIIB, Rule 54 (2) (a) (b) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives" (Hon. Njida Gella).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

- (iii) **Committee on Millennium Development Goals:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the 2007/2008 Sessional Report of the Committee on Millennium Development Goals" (Hon. Saudatu Sam).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) Committee on Pensions:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the 2007/2008 Sessional Report of the Committee on Pensions" (Hon. Joseph Gumbari).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(v) Committee on Defence:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the 2007/2008 Sessional Report of the Committee on Defence" (Hon. Wole Oke).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

10. Out-sourcing of Currency Printing, Distribution and Circulation by Central Bank of Nigeria:

*Motion made and Question proposed,
The House:*

Notes that Sections 16 and 17 (a), (c) and (d) of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, states that: "The Central Bank of Nigeria shall have the sole right of issuing currency notes, coins, arrange for printing of currency notes and coins, arrange for safe custody of un-issued stocks of currency notes, arrange for the destruction of currency notes and coins withdrawn from circulation, amongst other functions";

Further notes the intention of the Central Bank of Nigeria to contract to private organizations, the minting of the Naira, its distribution to Banks and the destruction of bad notes, vide Federal Tenders Journal of 7/7/2008 calling for tender from interested companies

Disturbed that the policy which the Central Bank of Nigeria intends to introduce by contracting the aforesaid functions to private companies shall have negative effects on the processing, printing, distribution and circulation of Nigerian currencies and coins;

Aware that some foreign Banks have engaged in the outsourcing of their currencies which resulted in poor quality production, counterfeiting, fraud, insecurity and poor management of the distribution of the currencies;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge Mr President to direct the Central Bank of Nigeria to put on hold its proposed disengagement from currency printing, processing, distribution and the leasing or sale of the Bank's currency processing equipment and offices;*
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to invite the Governor of Central Bank and all other stakeholders including the Bank Executives of the existing 24 (twenty four) Banks for their input into the matter and report back to the House (Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun and 11 Others).*

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Sections 16 and 17 (a), (c) and (d) of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, states that: "The Central Bank of Nigeria shall have the sole right of issuing currency notes, coins, arrange for printing of currency notes and coins, arrange for safe custody of un-issued stocks of currency notes, arrange for the destruction of currency notes and coins withdrawn from circulation, amongst other functions";

Further noted the intention of the Central Bank of Nigeria to contract to private organizations, the minting of the Naira, its distribution to Banks and the destruction of bad notes, vide Federal Tenders Journal of 7/7/2008 calling for tender from interested companies

Disturbed that the policy which the Central Bank of Nigeria intended to introduce by contracting the aforesaid functions to private companies could have negative effects on the processing, printing, distribution and circulation of Nigerian currencies and coins;

Aware that some foreign Banks had engaged in the outsourcing of their currencies which resulted in poor quality production, counterfeiting, fraud, insecurity and poor management of the distribution of the currencies;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge Mr President to direct the Central Bank of Nigeria to put on hold its proposed disengagement from currency printing, processing, distribution and the leasing or sale of the Bank's currency processing equipment and offices;
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to invite the Governor of Central Bank and all other stakeholders including the Bank Executives of the existing 24 (twenty four) Banks for their input into the matter and report back to the House **(HR. 45/2008)**.

11. Urgent Need for the Immediate Take-off of the Tinapa Business and Tourism Resort:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the socio-economic importance of the Tinapa Business and Tourism Resort to the development of the country;

Worried that the Tinapa Project has remained idle because of the Federal Government failure to provide regulatory and operational guidelines on the status of Tinapa as a Free Trade Zone;

Concerned that investors and enterprises that moved into Tinapa Resort have literally closed shop and/or relocated after committing millions of dollars into the said project;

Regrets that the aim of establishing the Tinapa Resort, which is to reduce Nigeria's dependence on crude oil, is being defeated by the lukewarm attitude of the Federal Government towards the Project;

Disturbed that the United Arab Emirates is already moving into Ghana and Senegal to set up complexes like Tinapa to stem the influx of the Nigerian businessmen into their country;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Justice and Finance to as a matter of national importance, immediately provide the regulatory-cum-operational guidelines for the smooth take-off of the Tinapa Business and Tourism Resort (*Hon. Beni Lar and 28 Others*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the socio-economic importance of the Tinapa Business and Tourism Resort to the development of the country;

Worried that the Tinapa Project has remained idle because of the Federal Government failure to provide regulatory and operational guidelines on the status of Tinapa as a Free Trade Zone;

Concerned that investors and enterprises that moved into Tinapa Resort have literally closed shop and/or relocated after committing millions of dollars into the said project;

Regretted that the aim of establishing the Tinapa Resort, which is to reduce Nigeria's dependence on crude oil, is being defeated by the lukewarm attitude of the Federal Government towards the Project;

Disturbed that the United Arab Emirates is already moving into Ghana and Senegal to set up complexes like Tinapa to stem the influx of the Nigerian businessmen into their country;

Resolved to:

Urge the Federal Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Justice and Finance to as a matter of national importance, immediately provide the regulatory-cum-operational guidelines for the smooth take-off of the Tinapa Business and Tourism Resort (**HR. 46/2008**).

12. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 31 July, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 5.27 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker