



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 9 September, 2008

1. The House met at 11.00 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Second Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 31 July, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Admittance into the Chamber:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do suspend Order XV, Rule 9 (1) to admit into the Chamber, the Speaker of Ogun State House of Assembly, Hon. Olatunji Egbetokun, to observe the proceedings.
4. **Mr Speaker's Beginning of Session Address:**

It is my privilege and delight to welcome you all, my colleagues — Honourable Members of the Nigerian House of Representatives — back to this hallowed Chamber, after the six-week recess. It is my belief that we all utilized the occasion not only for sober reflection on the enormous task ahead, or undertake some of our oversight activities, but also to engage with our Constituencies, in order to acquaint ourselves with the opinions and expectations of those who elected us. Other Honourable Members also traveled outside the country for important meetings, conferences and workshops. Howsoever we spent the period of the recess, I believe that each of us has garnered insights and experiences that will add enduring value to our activities in the 2008/2009 legislative year and beyond.

The 2008/2009 Legislative year is very loaded, I must observe. For instance, our immediate pre-occupation has to do with concluding the passage of the 2008 Appropriation Amendment Bill which was outstanding when we went on recess. We also expect that the President of the Federal Republic will soon present the 2009 Appropriation Bill to the joint session of the National Assembly. Like we did with the previous budget, we are expected to work thoroughly and expeditiously on it. I am sure that Nigerians wily appreciate the constraints we had to grapple with the consideration of the 2008 budget. This time around, it is the expectation that such limitations are addressed by the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) so that valuable time is saved and the budget passed in good time.

*But even beyond the 2009 Appropriation Bill we anticipate, we remain committed to the budgetary ideal of inclusiveness, where the focus is people-centred. We do recognize that budgeting is undeniably the most vital fiscal policy tool for achieving the developmental aspirations of any nation. To be credible and carry the people along, national budgeting must, of essence, encompass the virtues of truly **reflecting** the needs and preferences of the people; pro viding opportunity for the citizenry in budgetary decisions; and being guided by the principles of accountable and transparent governance. In the House of Representatives, we are fully committed to these ideals and would utilize our oversight and representative roles in ensuring that they are upheld in the forthcoming and subsequent budgets.*

Honourable colleagues, you will recall that, shortly before we proceeded on recess, I announced the dissolution of all but two of our Standing Committees. The idea, like you are all aware, stems from the need to restructure House Committees in the strive to reposition them for the challenges of our re-defined oversight responsibilities. In a few days, the Committees would be re-constituted and the machinery put in place for their immediate inauguration.

There is no gainsaying the fact that Nigerians have reason to be anxious about the investigative hearings we have conducted and those that are still on-going. I wish to re-assure my colleagues and all other Nigerians that all reports on our public hearings will be duly debated and recommendations followed up for full implementation. More than ever before, the House of Representatives is determined to usher in a new dawn in the conduct of public affairs, and our resolve to ask questions is in consonance with our precept and practice of probity, transparency and accountability in governance. We should re-double our efforts in consolidating the proactive legacy that we have consciously entrenched in the House of Representatives.

May I seize this opportunity to salute our Muslim colleagues who are currently engaged in the religious obligation of Ramadan. We must utilize this divine calling to rededicate ourselves to the service of Almighty Allah and mankind. We should also continue to commit our country into prayers; for God to safeguard our leaders and compatriots in the collective desire to lead our country to its fullest potentials.

My dear colleagues, I once again welcome you back to plenary session. I welcome you back to the challenges of leadership at this moment of great national expectation. We must continue to uphold the confidence Nigerians have reposed in us through the mandate they granted us to represent them.

Thank you all.

Rt. Hon. Dimeji S. Bankole, CFR
Speaker

5. Announcements:

(a) *Bereavement:*

Mr Speaker announced with regrets the death of Alhaja Bintu Amope Akinlade, mother of Hon. Abiodun Isiaq Akinlade, aged 78, on 19 August, 2008. She has been buried according to Muslim rites.

A minute in silence was observed for the repose of her soul.

(b) *Visitors:*

Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Gallery of the Honourable Members of Ogun State House of Assembly.

(c) *Conferees:*

Mr Speaker named the following conferees on the Appropriation (Amendment) Bill, 2008:

- (i) Hon. Ayo Adeseun
- (ii) Hon. John Enoch
- (iii) Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi
- (iv) Hon. Terngu Tsegba
- (v) Hon. Farouk Lawan
- (vi) Hon. Mustapha Ahmed

6. Personal Explanation:

Relying on Order VIII, Rule 5, Hon. H. S. Dickson (*Brass/Nembe Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the publication in the Nigerian Dailies, alleging financial impropriety against him in the award of a Library Contract in his State (*Bayelsa*) during his tenure as the Attorney-General of that State. He noted that the allegation was a smear campaign against him and an infra dig on his reputable standing as an Honourable Member of the House, hence the need for his explanation.

Remarking, Mr Speaker noted that the House was not in receipt of any allegation of impropriety against Hon. H. S. Dickson or any other Member and advised that the matter be discountenanced.

7. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Gurara Water Management Authority **Bill**, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time,*
- (iv) National Food Reserve Agency Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) National Agricultural Seeds Council Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time,*
- (vi) Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time,*
- (vii) National Agricultural Development fund Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

8. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Labour Act, 1990 and make Comprehensive Provisions on Minimum Labour Standards for Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Labour Act 1990 and make Comprehensive Provisions on Minimum Labour Standards for Nigeria and for 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 Committee on Labour and Productivity.

9. Re-constitution of the Membership of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges:

Mr Speaker announced the re-constitution of the Membership of **the** Committee on Ethics and Privileges as follows:

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| (1) | Hon. Sani Saleh Minjibir | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. John Kalipa | <i>Deputy Chairman</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Farouk Lawan | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Garba Shehu Matazu | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Bashir Adamu | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Ibrahim Khalid | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Abdulaziz Yari | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Umar Moh'd Bature | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Yakubu Dogara | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Jerry Manwe | <i>Member</i> |
| (11) | Hon. Mustapha Ahmed | <i>Member</i> |
| (12) | Hon. GoniBukar | <i>Member</i> |
| (13) | Hon. Mikail Bmitosahi | <i>Member</i> |
| (14) | Hon. Chille Igbawua | <i>Member</i> |
| (15) | Hon. Kolawole Yusuf | <i>Member</i> |
| (16) | Hon. Emmanuel Jev | <i>Member</i> |
| (17) | Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi | <i>Member</i> |
| (18) | Hon. Wilfred Onyema | <i>Member</i> |
| (190) | Hon. Stanley Ohajuruka | <i>Member</i> |
| (20) | Hon. Nnenna Ukaje | <i>Member</i> |
| (21) | Hon. Ikhariale Patrick | <i>Member</i> |

(22)	Hon. John Halims Agoda	—	<i>Member</i> .
(23)	Hon. Warman Ogoriba	—	<i>Member</i>
(24)	Hon. Rasak Adewusi	—	<i>Member</i>
(25)	Hon. Ademoia Adeseun	—	<i>Member</i>
(26)	Hon. Duro Faseyi	—	<i>Member</i>
(27)	Hon. Moruf Fatai	—	<i>Member</i>
(28)	Hon. Tayo Fawehinmi	—	<i>Member</i>

10. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 10 September, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akoguri*).

Adjourned accordingly at 11.50 a.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker