



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 8 October, 2008

1. The House met at 2.42 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, 7 October, 2008.
By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcements:**
 - (i) **Committees Composition:**
Mr Speaker announced that the Selection Committee had completed reconstitution of Committees and would soon circulate copies to Members.
 - (ii) **Retreat Committee:**
Mr Speaker named the Membership of the Retreat Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Tunde Akogun	—	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie	—	First Vice Chairman
(3)	Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila	—	Second Vice Chairman
(4)	Hon. Kawu Abdulrahman	—	Member
(5)	Hon. Ishiyaka Bawa	—	Member
(6)	Hon. Auwal Gwalebe	—	Member
(7)	Hon. Abdulkadir Mamman Nasir	—	Member
(8)	Hon. Habeeb Fasinro	—	Member
(9)	Hon. Wale Aribisala	—	Member
(10)	Hon. Ita Enang	—	Member
(11)	Hon. Joyce Overah	—	Member
(12)	Hon. Ernest Ibejiako	—	Member
(13)	Hon. Uche Ekwunife	—	Member
(14)	Hon. Bitrus Kaze	—	Member
(15)	Hon. Umar Jibrin Buba	—	Member
(16)	Hon. K. G. B. Oguakwa	—	Member
(17)	Hon. Alaaga Demnege Christina	—	Member.
 - (iii) **Obituaries:**
Mr Speaker announced with regrets:
 - (a) The death of the father of Hon. Salisu Majigiri on Saturday, 4 October, 2008;

- (b) The demise of Hon. Michael Amaechi Oje (*Ohaozara West Federal Constituency* 1979 - 1983) on Sunday, 14 September, 2008.

A minute in silence was observed in honour of the deceased persons.

- (iii) *Visitors:*
Mr Speaker announced the presence in the Gallery of Staff and Students of Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan Waya, Kaduna State.

4. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. Kamil Akinlabi Mudashiru (*Afijio, Atibaf Oyo East/Oyo West Federal Constituency*), from the law firm of Chief Afe Babalola (Emmanuel Chambers) on behalf of Mr R. A. Akintoye, praying the House to investigate the alleged unlawful suspension from duty by Nigerian Telecommunication Limited (NITEL), and ensure that justice prevails;
- (ii) Hon. Godfrey Ali Gaiya (*Jaba/Zango Katqf Federal Constituency*), from Mr Edward Ngani Jim, praying the House to intervene in the alleged wrongful termination of his appointment from the Service of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) with a view to re-instating him;
- (iii) Hon. Bala Adamu Kuta (*Shiroro/Rqfi Minyi Federal Constituency*), from Ex Cpl Emmanuel Zaki, praying the House to investigate his alleged compulsory retirement by the Nigeria Police Force and cause his reinstatement.

5. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) National Programme on Immunisation (Repeal) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) National Primary Health Care Development Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

6. Presentation of Report:

Committee on Ethics and Privileges:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on the Allegation of Corruption against the House Committee on Power on the Power probe" (*Hon. John Kalipa*),

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

7. Melt-down of World Economy:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that in the last two weeks the world economy has experienced a financial melt-down which started in the United States of America (USA) and is now spreading through Europe and Asia;

A ware of the response by Government in the developed countries like the United States of America (USA) where Congress recently enacted a law for a 700 billion dollars bail out plan for financial institution to stem this slide;

Concerned that in 21st century the world economy is deeply rooted in capitalism and our recent experience with the stock markets, demonstrates that Nigeria is not immuned from a global dislocation of the economic down turn;

Worried that so far there has not been any reaction from the Nigerian Government to this imminent catastrophe;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Capital Market to conduct an Investigative Hearing on the remote and immediate causes of the financial crisis and how to safe guard Nigerian economy from imminent danger;

- (ii) Examine how healthy our financial/economic system is, and evaluate the appropriateness of the measures/actions taken by the Government Agencies, Regulatory Authorities, Banks and other Financial Institutions in safeguarding our economy (*Hon. Emmanuel Jime and 43 Others*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in prayer (ii) and insert the following instead thereof:

"Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to examine how healthy our financial/economic system is, and evaluate the appropriateness of the measures/actions taken by the Government Agencies, Regulatory Authorities, Banks and other Financial Institutions in safeguarding our economy" (*Hon. John Owan Enoch*).

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

Main Question as amended put and agreed to. The House:

Noted that in the last two weeks the world economy has experience a financial melt-down which started in the United States of America (USA) and is now spreading through Europe and Asia;

A ware of the response by Government in the developed countries like the United States of America (USA) where Congress recently enacted a law for a 700 billion dollars bail out plan for financial institution to stem this slide;

Concerned that in 21 st century the world economy is deeply rooted in capitalism and our recent experience with the stock markets, demonstrates that Nigeria is not immuned from a global dislocation of the economic down turn;

Worried that so far there has not been any reaction from the Nigerian Government to this imminent catastrophe;

Resolves to: ■

- (i) Mandate the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Capital Market to conduct an Investigative Hearing on the remote and immediate causes of the financial crisis and how to safeguard Nigerian economy from imminent danger;
- ii) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to examine how healthy our financial/economic system is, and evaluate the appropriateness of the measures/actions taken by the Government Agencies, Regulatory Authorities, Banks and other Financial Institutions in safeguarding our economy (**HR. 52/2008**).

8. Need for the Government to Curtail the fast spreading Melamine contaminated infant formula and Diary Products from China:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the spreading of melamine contaminated infant formula and diary products worldwide originating from China;

A ware that melamme is a deadly substance which is high in nitrogen and used to make plastics and fertilizers and has the potential to cause kidney stone that lead to kidney failure and death if ingested which infants are particularly vulnerable;

Informed that several Chinese infants have died so far, over 56,000 Chinese children treated for the contamination and almost 12,900 Chinese children currently hospitalized after taking the melamine contaminated infant formula;

Further informed that the Government of the affected countries have recalled and equally imposed bans on the importation of the contaminated infant formula and diary products;

Further aware that the World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) have called on countries to be on the alert for possible spread of the melamine contaminated infant foods and diary products such as milk, yoghurt, ice cream, chocolate, beverages and even toothpaste;

Worried that China is one of Nigerian's trading partners;

Further worried that, Nigerians are in a very vulnerable position as imported dairy products are consumed in large quantities and that some nursing mothers in Nigeria choose to use one infant formula or the other;

Resolves to:

- (0) Urge the Federal Government to suspend the use of all imported dairy products pending the outcome of a Scientific investigations carried out by National Agency for Foods, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to ascertain its safety on the users;
- (ii) Further urge the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and National Agency for Foods, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to intensify screening of imported dairy products at the ports of entry;
- (iii) Urge the Federal Ministry of Health to intensify the campaign on exclusive breast feeding for infants till the age of six months;
- (iv) Urge the Government to set up policy intervention programmes that would promote the consumption of healthy foods in Nigeria (*Hon. Sada Soli Jibia and 46 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (0) Leave out Prayers (i) and (iii) (*Hon. Alaba Ojomo*).

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

- (ii) Insert a new prayer (v) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Ministry of Health and National Agency for Foods, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to mount intensive enlightenment campaign especially in the rural areas to avoid the use of contaminated dairy products" (*Hon. Ishaku Joshua Sharah*).

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

Main Question as amended put and agreed to. The House:

Noted the spreading of melamine contaminated infant formula and dairy products worldwide originating from China;

A ware that melamine is a deadly substance which is high in nitrogen and used to make plastics and fertilizers and has the potential to cause kidney stone that lead to kidney failure and death if ingested which infants are particularly vulnerable;

Informed that several Chinese infants have died so far, over 56,000 Chinese children treated for the contamination and almost 12,900 Chinese children currently hospitalized after taking the melamine contaminated infant formula;

Further informed that the Government of the affected countries have recalled and equally imposed bans on the importation of the contaminated infant formula and dairy products;

Further aware that the World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) have called on countries to be on the alert for possible spread of the melamine contaminated infant foods and dairy products such as milk, yoghurt, ice cream, chocolate, beverages and even toothpaste;

Worried that China is one of Nigerian's trading partners;

Further worried that, Nigerians are in a very vulnerable position as imported dairy products are consumed in large quantities and that some nursing mothers in Nigeria choose to use one infant formula or the other;

Resolved to urge:

- (i) the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and National Agency for Foods, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to intensify screening of imported dairy products at the ports of entry;

(ii) the Government to set up policy intervention programmes that would promote the consumption of healthy foods in Nigeria; and

(iii) the Federal Ministry of Health and National Agency for Foods, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to mount intensive enlightenment campaign especially in the rural areas to avoid the use of contaminated dairy products **(HR. 53/2008)**.

9. A Bill for an Act to make it Mandatory for Drivers and Passengers to wear Seat Belts for their Protection and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to make it Mandatory for Drivers and Passengers to wear Seat Belts for their Protection and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Chukwudi Mayor Eze*).

Debate:

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

10. Consideration of Report;

Committee on Ethics and Privileges:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on the Allegation of Corruption against the House Committee on Power on the Power probe, and approve the Recommendations therein" (*Bon. John Kalipa*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Report, put and agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

That the allegation of N100,000,000.00 bribe against the Committee on Power is unfounded and untrue (*Hon John Kalipa*).

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

That the serialized publication of the purported report of the Committee on Power in the newspapers cannot be confirmed to be the authentic and final copy of the report which has not be laid before the House (*Hon John Kalipa*)

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendation (in):

That the Press should always seek confirmation of stories to be published (*Hon John Kalipa*).

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Recommendation (iv) as follows:

"Mandate the House Committee on Ethics and Privileges to re-invite the Tell Magazine and Daily Trust Newspaper to appear and to testify before it pursuant to section 89 (1) (c) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999" (*Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal*).

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.