



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 14 October, 2008

1. The House met at 10.43 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, 9 October, 2008

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
Obituary:
Mr Speaker announced with regrets the death of the father of Hon Kabiru Koffa on Saturday, 11 October, 2008. He had since been buried in accordance with Islamic rites.

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

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

Hon. David Idoko {Ado/Ogadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency}, from Mr Basil Okoro, praying the House to investigate his alleged unlawful retirement from the service of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), with a view to re-instating him and paying his entitlements.

5. **Frequent Rejection of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Members Posted to Government Establishments:**
Motion made and Question proposed, The House:

A ware that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Act, No.51 of 1973; established the National Youth Corps which specifies the conditions of Service for corps members;

Notes that the express objective of government is to call-up Nigerian graduates, of specified age category, to help in National development and integration, by engaging them to contribute to the social, economic and infrastrucrural development of the country;

Concerned that corps members are always stranded, and in near destitution after orientation for long periods, and sometimes throughout the entire service year, without securing posting to any area of primary assignment, due to rejection by Parastatals and other establishments;

Further concerned' that this unfortunate situation is contrary to the spirit and objectives of the scheme;

Worried that this act by government establishments could lead to corps members wanting to evade the service;

Resolves to:

- (/) Urge the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to always liaise with Ministries and Parastatals before the orientation, to ascertain their requirement for corps members;
- (//) Urge the Federal Government to mandate its Ministries, Departments and Agencies to accept every Corps member posted to it for primary assignment, and to encourage private organizations to do the same {*Hon. Wanni W. Ogorima and 32 Others*}.

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (j) In Prayer (i) line 1, immediately after the word "to", insert the words "operate the scheme in strict compliance with the provisions of the law and the guidelines and" (*Bon. Ubale J. Kiru*).

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

- (ii) Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
"Mandate the relevant Committees of the House to commence the process for the amendment of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Act No. 51 of 1973, in order to address the myriads of problems associated with the scheme" (*Hon. Stanley Ohajuruka*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

- (iii) Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"That 20% of the staff strength in public organizations should be reserved to accommodate members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)" (*Bon. I. J. Ajatta*).

Question put and negatived.

- {iv} Inserts new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to increase the monthly allowance of corps members to N20,000.00" (*Bon. Darlington Okereke*).

Question put and negatived.

- (v) Insert a. new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"Urge organizations to stop further examination of corps members before they are accepted to serve" (*Hon. Njidda Gella*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

- {vi} Inserts new Prayer (vii) as follows:
"That any corps member rejected by Government Agency for no fault of his/her own should be paid his/her monthly allowance, as well as being entitled to his/her discharge certificate" (*Bon. Patrick Ikhariale*).

Question put and negatived.

- (vii) Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to guarantee a reasonable minimum wage or allowance for every Youth Corps member posted to serve with employers who do not have budget to accommodate corps members posted to them" (*Bon. Mardia Bodunrin*).

Question put and negatived.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Act, No.51 of 1973; established the National Youth Corps which specifies the conditions of Service for Corps members;

Noted that the express objective of government is to call-up Nigerian graduates, of specified age category, to help in National development and integration, by engaging them to contribute to the social, economic and infrastructural development of the country;

Concerned that corps members are always stranded, and in near destitution after orientation, for long periods and sometimes throughout the entire service year, without securing posting to any area of primary assignment, due to rejection by Government establishments;

Further concerned *ikax* this unfortunate situation is contrary to the spirit and objectives of the scheme;

Worried that **this** act by government establishments could lead to corps members wanting to evade the service;

Resolved to:

- (/) Urge the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to operate **the** scheme in strict compliance with the provisions of the law and the guidelines, and always liaise with Ministries and Parastatals before the orientation to ascertain their requirement for corps members;
- (h) Urge the Federal Government to mandate its Ministries, Departments and Agencies to accept every corps member posted to it for primary assignment and to encourage private organizations to do the same;
- (in) Mandate the relevant Committees of the House to commence the process for the amendment of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Act, No. 51 of 1973, in order to address the myriads of problems associated with the scheme;
- (iv) Urge organizations to stop further examination of corps members before they are accepted to serve **(HR. 54/2008)**.

6. Deteriorating and Inefficient Services by Airline Operators:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the importance of an efficient Air transport to the Economy of any nation;

Concerned about the spiral cost of air travel in the country, without commensurate quality of in-flight services;

Worried about the increasing rate of sudden cancellation of scheduled flights by Nigerian Airlines without adequate compensation to passengers who suffer great inconveniences;

Disturbed that this unacceptable practice in the Aviation industry goes on without being adequately checked by the regulators of the industry;

Worried that this phenomenon negates international best practices and could portray the country in bad light;

Resolves to:

- (i) Condemn in very strong terms the frequent cancellation and disruption of flights by airline operators in Nigeria without prior notice and/or compensation to passengers;
- (ii) Mandate the House Committee on Aviation to liaise with the appropriate agencies in the Aviation Industry to check excessive tariff increases by airline operators and to ensure strict compliance with international best practices in the Aviation industry (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha and 41 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (/) *Inserts, new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
"Direct the House Committee on Aviation to perform stricter oversight on the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) (the policeman of the Industry) to carry out its responsibilities under the Aviation Act to guarantee customer satisfaction" (*Hon. Solomon Agidani*).

Question put and negatived.

(ii) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*

"Urge the relevant regulatory Agency to compel all Airline operators to fleet all aircrafts in accordance with convention before flight so as to rid them of mosquitoes and other harmful insects {Hon. Chile W. Igbawa}.

Question put and negatived.

(iii) *Inserts new Prayer (iii) as follows:*

"Urge the Federal Government to direct the Federal Ministry of Aviation and other relevant agencies to be efficient and more effective towards discharging their regulatory functions {Hon. Halima Hassan}.

Question put and negatived.

Main Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the importance of an efficient Air transport to the Economy of any nation;

Concerned about the spiral cost of air travel in the country, without commensurate quality of in-flight services;

Worried about the increasing rate of sudden cancellation of scheduled flights by Nigerian Airlines without adequate compensation to passengers who suffer great inconveniences;

Disturbed that this unacceptable practice in the Aviation industry goes on without being adequately checked by the regulators of the industry;

Worried that this phenomenon negates international best practices and could portray the country in bad light;

Resolved to:

(i) Condemn in very strong terms the frequent cancellation and disruption of flights by airline operators in Nigeria without prior notice and/or compensation to passengers;

(ii) Mandate the House Committee on Aviation to liaise with the appropriate agencies in the Aviation Industry to check excessive tariff increases by airline operators and to ensure strict compliance with international best practices in the Aviation industry **(HR. 55/2008)**.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Factories Act and Make Comprehensive Provisions for Occupational Safety and Health in Workplaces and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading:** *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Factories Act and Make Comprehensive Provisions for Occupational Safety and Health in Workplaces and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 be now read a Second Time (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

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 Labour, Employment and Productivity and Justice.

8. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 15 October, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.45 p.m.

CORRIGENDUM

In the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 9 October, 2008, in page 198, reflect the following as item 9 and renumber accordingly:

9. A Bill for an Act to amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — *Third Reading:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Tunde Akogun),

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

Bill read the Third Time and Passed.