



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 28 October, 2008

1. The House met at 11.23 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, 23 October, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcement:**
Publication of Bills:
Mr Speaker announced that all the 47 outstanding Bills for publication had now been published.
4. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:
 - (i) Hon. Chinenye Ike (*Isiala Ngwa Nordi/Isiala Ngwa Soudi Federal Constituency*), from Chuks O. Mpama Esq. on behalf of Mr Ugwuzor Iron-Johnson, praying the House to look into his alleged unlawful dismissal from the services of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) with a view to reinstating him and granting other reliefs sought;
 - (ii) Hon. Halims Agoda (*Ediiope Federal Constituency*), from Mrs Joseph Akpodine against the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), praying the House to intervene in her alleged unlawful termination of her appointment and to grant other reliefs sought;
 - (iii) Hon. Ogbuefi Ozongbachi (*Ezeagu/Udi Federal Constituency*), from Ray Chime, praying the House to intervene in his alleged unlawful dismissal from the Nigerian Coal Corporation and cause his reinstatement and pay all his outstanding entitlements.
5. **Privilege:**
Rising on Order V, Rule 4, Hon. Muhammed Abdu Sani, drew the attention of the House to the recent allegation in the national dailies on the alleged over-invoicing of the contract for the purchase of official vehicles for the House. He viewed the development as a breach of the privilege of the House as it tended to bring the integrity of the House to question. He therefore urged that the House Committee on Ethics and Privileges should be given the necessary cooperation in the discharge of its duties when investigating the matter, while Members with relevant information should channel their grievances to the Committee.

Mr Speaker noted the observation and enjoined Members with relevant facts to assist the Committee to facilitate a timely completion of its assignment.
6. **Presentation of Bills**
 - (i) Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

- (ii) River Basin Development Authorities (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) National Projects Monitoring Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Transportation of Animals (Prohibition of Undue Pain and Suffering) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (vi) National Directorate of Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (vii) National Judicial Council (Staff) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (viii) Statutory Instrument (Legislative Scrutiny) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (ix) Nigerian Infants Health Welfare Commission Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (x) Police Public Complaints Bureau (Establishment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*
- (xi) Compulsory Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

7. **Presentation of Reports:**

(i) **Committee on Industries:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the 2007/2008 Sessional Report of the Committee on Industries" (Hon. Solomon U. Agidam).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **Committee on Banking and Currency:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the 2007/2008 Sessional Report of the Committee on Banking and Currency" (Hon. Ogbuefi O. Ozomgbachi).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) **Committee on House Services:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the 2007/2008 Sessional Report of the House Services Committee" (Hon. Muhammed A. Almakura).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **The Inability of the Nigerian Navy and Other Government Agencies to Combat the Increasing Incidence of Hijacking Fishing Vessels in Nigeria's Territorial Waters:**

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the importance of fish as a source of protein and its operation as a means of gainful employment and source of revenue;

Worried about the increasing incidence of hijacking of coastal vessels engaged in fishing operations in the coastal regions of Lagos, Delta, Rivers, Ondo and Bayelsa States;

Aware of the recent complaint and public outcry for help by the Nigerian Trawler Owners Association (NITOA) in combating the growing menace of sea piracy in Nigerian coastal waters;

Disturbed that if the menace is not checked, cost of insurance cover for ship movement into Nigeria would increase and have negative effects on various sectors of the economy;

Concerned that the fate of 8 Captains and 96 crew members of fishing vessels who were recently abducted to unknown location by these pirates from their vessels in Sambrayo in Bayelsa State is unknown;

Further worried about the apparent inability of the Nigerian Navy to effectively combat this growing trend in the Nigerian coastal waters;

Further concerned that this unchallenged and growing trend of coastal piracy may be directly linked to the growing cases of theft of Nigeria crude oil estimated at about 500,000 barrels per day;

Resolves to:

- (i) Condemn in very strong terms the apparent lack of will by the Nigerian Navy to seriously combat sea piracy in Nigerian coastal waters especially the inability to move swiftly to save the lives of the hapless Captain and their vessels, resulting in brazen acts of kidnapping, torture, murder, rape and robbery by pirates;
- (ii) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the inability of the Nigerian Navy to protect our maritime assets and to ascertain the adequacy of measures used in protecting our waters and the level of preparedness of the Nigeria Navy to fight coastal crime and make appropriate recommendations to the House within 60 legislative days (*Hon. Chuma Nzeribe and 140 others*).

Debate:

Order IX, Rules 3 and 4:

Rising on the above order, Hon. Adamu Bashir (*Chairman, Committee on Navy*) informed the House that notice of the Motion had not been given as required by the Rules, and urged that the provision be complied with.

Ordered: That Hon. Chukwuma Nzeribe liaises with the Chairman, Committee on Navy on the matter. Debate on the Motion adjourned till the next Legislative Day.

9. A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Commission for Conciliation and Arbitration, National Labour Council, the Office of the Registrar of Trade Unions, etc. to Administer the Provisions of Labour Laws in Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Commission for Conciliation and Arbitration, National Labour Council, the Office of the Registrar of Trade Unions, etc. to Administer the Provisions of Labour Laws in 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 the Joint Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity and Justice.

10. A Bill for an Act to Repeal and Re-Enact the National Agricultural Seeds Council Act, 1992 and for Other Related Matters, 2008 — Second Reading.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal and Re-Enact the National Agricultural Seeds Council Act, 1992 and for Other Related Matters, 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 Joint Committee on Agriculture and Justice.

11. Consolidation of Bills:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Food Reserve Agency and for matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Food Reserve Agency and for matters Connected Therewith, 2008 and a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Strategic Food Reserve Agency and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 be consolidated" (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Question put and agreed to.

12. A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Food Reserve Agency and for matters Connected Therewith, 2008; and a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Strategic Food Reserve Agency and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Food Reserve Agency and for matters Connected Therewith, 2008 and a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Strategic Food Reserve Agency and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 be now read the Second Time" (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Debate:

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to Committee on Agriculture.

13. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Order VIII Rule 4, Hon. David Idoko drew the attention of the House to the decision of the Executive branch of the Federal Government to withdraw from hosting the 2009 FIFA Under 17 World Cup, and the implications of the Government action, for the nation. He urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and prayed that it be debated forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that Order VIII, Rule 4(3) be suspended to enable the House consider the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

14. Federal Government's Decision to Withdraw from Hosting the 2009 Under 17 World Football Championship:

Motion made and Question proposed,
The House:

A ware that the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) awarded the Hosting Rights of the 2009 U-17 World Soccer tournament to Nigeria;

Notes the decision of Federal Government to withdraw from hosting the tournament;

Concerned that this development would adversely affect the development of football in Nigeria and her relationship with FIFA and the international communities;

Resolves to urge the Federal Government:

(i) To re-visit the decision to withdraw from hosting the tournament;

(//) In line with its Public Private Partnership initiative to re-constitute the Local Organizing Committee to include Captains of Industries and credible sports administrators towards a successful hosting (*Hon. David Idoko*).

Debate:

Question put:

The House divided:

Counts taken

Ayes — 40

Nays — 65

Abstention — 6

Question put and negatived.

14. Adjournment:

And it being 2.00 p.m. the House adjourned till Wednesday, 29 October, 2008 at 2.00 **p.m.**

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker