



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 2 July, 2008

1. The House met at 2.32 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, 1 July, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Message:**
Mr Speaker read a Message from the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

June 26, 2008

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

Dear brother,

2008 APPROPRIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

I forward herewith, for your kind consideration, the 2008 Appropriation (Amendment) Bill.

Consistent with the Seven-Point Agenda of our Administration, the 2008 Appropriation Amendment Bill focuses on the provision of infrastructure, particularly in the Energy and Transportation sectors and the FCT; as well as Food Security, Defence and Security.

I firmly believe that this targeted spending proposal will further stimulate economic growth and improve service delivery to our people within the context of a stable macroeconomic environment.

It is my hope that the National Assembly will accord the 2008 Appropriation (Amendment) Bill the usual expeditious consideration.

Please accept, Honourable Speaker, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. Announcement:

Joint Referral:

Mr Speaker announced that the Bill for an Act to Enable Effect to be Given in the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Agreement Between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Republic of South Korea for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains, 2008 which was referred to the Committee on Finance ought to have been referred to the Joint Committee on Finance and Foreign Affairs. He reordered the referral accordingly.

5. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. Kayode Idowu (*Boripe/Ifelodun/Odo-Otim Federal Constituency*), from the Association of Reformed Retirees of National Research Institute on Chemical Technology (NARICT), Zaria, praying the House to intervene in the matter of the non-payment of their pensions and other entitlements with a view re-dressing the trend and paying their entitlements;
- (ii) Hon. Dino Melaye (*Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency*), from the Senior Staff Members of the Middle Belt Development Programme, praying the House to intervene in the alleged non-payment of their salaries and emoluments for 1 year by the Federal Government and to facilitate the payment of the Salary arrears;
- (iii) Hon. Jerimon S. Manwe (*Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*), from Ex-Sergeant Stephen Bose, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful dismissal from service by the Nigeria Police Force, with the view to re-instating and payment of all his outstanding entitlements;
- (iv) Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*), from Okon Edet Ibongidi, praying the House to investigate his alleged wrongful dismissal from service by the Nigeria Police Force with a view to re-instating him.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

- (i) Relying on Order VIII, Rule 4, Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon drew the attention of the House to a report that on 19th June, 2008 the National Economic Council (NEC) decided to appropriate the sum of 1.2 Trillion Naira of which N620 Billion is to be injected into the Power Sector. While conceding that power is central to the development of the Nigerian economy. Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon faulted the approval, which without recourse to the National Assembly is a violation of Section 162 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. He therefore sought the leave of the House to present a motion on the issue as one of urgent Public Importance.

Question put and agreed to.

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

- (ii) Also relying on Order VIII, Rule 4, Hon. Uche Ekwunife drew the attention of the House to the menace of erosion in Ifite village and Nanka in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State which had claimed over 150 lives and destroyed property worth about Hi.5 billion. She sought leave of the House to present a motion on the matter as one of urgent public importance.

Question put and agreed to.

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

(iii) Citing Order VII, Rule 4, Hon. Austin Nwachukwu drew the attention of the House to incessant reports of the killing of Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigeria Civil Defence Corps by bandits. He viewed the matter as one of urgent public importance and sought leave of the House to present a motion to that effect.

Question put and negatived.

7. **Presentation of Bill:**

Chartered Pension Institute of Nigeria Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

8. **Presentation of Report:**

Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness on the Influx of Chadian Refugees into Gamboru-Ngala in Borno State" (Hon. Leo Awoyemi).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. **Nationwide Strike by the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT):**

Motion made and Question proposed,
The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) was on a 3-day warning strike between 11th and 13th June, 2008;

Further Notes that the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) has embarked on an indefinite nationwide strike which began on Monday, 30th June, 2008;

Concerned that strike actions have been the hallmark of the Nigerian educational system in recent times;

Disturbed that the incessant and prolonged strikes can worsen the already decaying educational system in the Country;

Aware that the Appropriation Act 2008, provides for the new Teachers Salary Scale (TSS) for the 102 Unity Schools;

Regrets that the recent re-scheduling of (he National Examination Council (NECO) examinations was an attendant effect of the warning strike by the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT);

Appreciates the plight of teachers and the need for an enhanced salary structure, i.e. Teachers Salary Scale (TSS) approved for them as an incentive to boost their morale and effectiveness in the discharge of their duties;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to approve and commence immediately the implementation of the new Teachers Salary Scale (TSS) which has been provided for in the Appropriation Act, 2008 by issuing relevant circular to this effect;
- (ii) Further urge the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) to suspend their strike action and resume normal class work immediately as the Government is taking adequate measure to resolve the problem (*Hon. Farouk M. Lawan and 95 Others*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Main question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) was on a 3-day warning strike between 11th and 13th June, 2008;

Further Noted that the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) has embarked on an indefinite nationwide strike which began on Monday, 30th June, 2008;

Concerned that strike actions have been the hallmark of the Nigerian educational system in recent times;

Disturbed that the incessant and prolonged strikes can worsen the already decaying educational system in the Country;

Aware that the Appropriation Act 2008, provides for the new Teachers Salary Scale (TSS) for the 102 Unity Schools;

Regretted that the recent re-scheduling of the National Examination Council (NECO) examinations was an attendant effect of the warning strike by the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT);

Appreciated the plight of teachers and the need for an enhanced salary structure, i.e. Teachers Salary Scale (TSS) approved for them as an incentive to boost their morale and effectiveness in the discharge of their duties;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to approve and commence immediately the implementation of the new Teachers Salary Scale (TSS) which has been provided for in the Appropriation Act, 2008 by issuing relevant circular to this effect;
- (ii) Further urge the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) to suspend their strike action and resume normal class work immediately as the Government is taking adequate measure to resolve the problem (**HR. 32/2008**).

10. A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Disaster Management Commission and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading:

Order read; deferred.

Executive Session — **3.40 p.m.**

House in Plenary — **4.10 p.m.**

11. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 3 July, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Emeka Ihedioha*).

Adjourned accordingly at 4.15 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker