



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 23 July, 2008

1. The House met at 3.07 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, 22 July, 2008.
By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership:**
The following Members-elect, took and subscribed the Oaths as required by law:
 - (i) Uzoma Ikem-Abonta (*Ukwa Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) Chinwendu Charles Odedo (*Jdemili North and South Federal Constituency*).
4. **Message:**
Mr Speaker read the following Message from the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

July 22, 2008

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

Dear brother,

REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE REVENUE ALLOCATION FORMULA

I write to formally withdraw the Report on the Review of the Revenue Allocation Formula which I had forwarded to the Honourable House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for consideration.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

5. Jurisdictional/Constituency Order:

Mr Speaker directed the following Hon. Members in respect of the under-listed Urgent Constituency/Jurisdictional Tasks:

- (i) Hon. Friday Irulah (*Esan North-East/South- West Federal Constituency*), Oil Spill in Idoa and Ukhun Communities, Esan West Local Government Area;
- (ii) Hon. Sada Soli Jibia (*Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*) and Hon. Gbenga Oduwaye (*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs*) — Boarder Communities in Katsina State;
- (iii) Hon. Bassey Otu (*Chairman Inter/Intra Party Relations*) — Continued Inter-Party violence in Kogi State;
- (iv) Hon. T. Brisibe (*Chairman, Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream)*) — Plans by Chevron Nigeria Pic to close down operation in Nigeria;
- (v) Hon. Ehiogie West Idahosa (*Chairman, Committee on Interior*) and Hon. Kabir Achida Marafa (*Sub-Chairman, Committee on Prisons*) — On-the-Spot Assessment of Nigeria Prisons;
- (vi) Hon. Ado Dogo (*Chairman, Committee on Labour*) and Hon. Ubani Eziuche (*Chairman, Committee on Media*) - RATTAWU plans warning strike.

6. Announcement:

Visitors:

Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Gallery of:

- (i) National Association of Political Science and Public Administration Students, Imo State University;
- (ii) Department of Public Administration Students, Adamawa State University, Mubi;
- (iii) Students Union Government, University of Benin, Edo State.

7. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. Christopher Eta (*Ikom/Boki Federal Constituency*), from Mrs Faith E. E. Umoh, praying the House to investigate her alleged premature retirement from the Nigeria Customs Service with a view to reinstating her;
- (ii) Hon. Idris Isa (*Nasarawa Federal Constituency*), from Ibrahim Aliyu, praying the House to intervene in the alleged unlawful termination of his appointment by the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Establishment and Pensions, Federal Pension Office, Birnin-Kebbi, Sokoto Area Office, with a view to reinstating him.

8. Privileges:

Citing Order V, Rule 4, Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume drew the attention of the House to a publication in the Tell Magazine of July 28, 2008, on the continuous controversy with the Power Probe Committee Report.

Mr Speaker ruled that the matter had already been referred to the Ethics and Privileges Committee and assured the House that the Report of the Committee would be laid.

9. Matters of Urgent Public Importance — Order VIII, Rule 4:

- (i) Hon. Andrew I. Uchendu informed the House of the heightening crisis in the Niger Delta. He urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

- (ii) Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun, informed the House of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) outsourcing of non-core function of currency processing, printing, distribution and circulation to the private sector. He urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

10. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) National Office of Government Performance Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time*;
- (ii) Nigerian Football Association Act (Amendments) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time*;
- (iii) Family Economic Advancement Programme Act (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time*.

11. Presentation of Report:

Committee on Governmental Affairs:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Sessional Report of the Committee on Governmental Affairs between June, 2007 - June 2008" (Hon. Leo Ogor).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

12. Queen Ede Gully Erosion in Benin City, Edo State:

Motion made and Question proposed,
The House:

Notes the devastating effect that the Queen Ede Gully Erosion has been having on the residents of the Queen Ede Axis of Benin Agbor Road;

Further notes that the Erosion has claimed several lives and destroyed several houses, schools, Churches and a Mosques;

Acknowledges the efforts of some notable individuals, Churches, corporate bodies and recently, the Edo State Government, to control the erosion but without success;

Concerned that the erosion seems uncontrollable despite the palliative measures put in place and that the erosion is now at the kerb of the Benin-Asaba Express Road on one side and the PPMC Depot at Iwogba Axis on the other side;

Worried that if the Gully erosion is not put under control, more lives and properties will be lost including Government Infrastructures such as the PPMC Depot and Benin-Asaba Express Road which is the only link road from Benin to the Eastern part of Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministries of Environment, Housing and Urban Development to give priority to **the** control of the erosion of the affected areas;
- (ii) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims
(Hon. Ifaluyi Isibor and 36 Other).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayer (i) and insert the following instead thereof:

"Urge the Ministries of Environment, Housing and Urban Development to intervene in all the areas ravaged by erosion in Nigeria" (Hon. Dalington Okereke).

Question put and negatived. Main

Question put and negatived.

13. Need for Public and Political Office Holders to Curb frequent Oversea Medical Treatment:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the frequent trips undertaken by public and political office holders abroad for medical check-ups and treatment which could be ordinarily handled in our hospitals;

Regrets the negative impact of this phenomenon on the social and economic development of our great country in a situation where such minor ailments could be diagnosed and treated in the country;

Worried that the medical personnel in such hospitals abroad are mostly Nigerians in diaspora, who have traveled overseas in search of greener pastures;

Further worried that our Specialist Hospitals as Centres of excellence are now been abandoned and ill-equipped, hence the services provided are nothing to write home about;

Conscious of the fact that Political Office Holders as "Servant Leaders", must live by example in having preference for made-in-Nigeria goods and services;

Regrets that National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) has not assisted Nigerians in off-setting medical bills and the need for the review of the Act;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the House Committee on Health to work out the modalities in which our Specialist and Teaching Hospitals could be better equipped with modern state of the art facilities and trained staff;
- (ii) Urge the Federal Government to discourage Public and Political Office Holders from undertaking medical trips abroad and where such trips are quite mandatory, the medical bill incurred would be borne by the patient;
- (iii) Urge the Federal Government to allocate more resources to the health sector to conduct research into diseases affecting Africans generally;
- (iv) Urge the Federal Ministry of Health to develop and adopt a policy framework for Nigerians who wish to receive medical treatment abroad;
- (v) Urge the Federal Government to work out the modalities to address the problem of brain-drain in the country with a view to attracting Nigerians working abroad to return home with attractive incentives (*Hon. Dino Melaye and 27 Others*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayers (ii) and (iii) (Hon. Chile Igbawua).

Question put and negatived. Main

Question put and negatived.

14. Devastating Pipeline Oil Spillage in Idoa and Ukhun Community of Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that on July 18, 2008, there was an oil spillage in Idoa and Ukhun communities in Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State;

Further notes that the spillage has spread to other communities in the area causing tremendous damage to the environment and aquatic life;

Worried that the spillage has claimed many lives and properties, farmlands and livestock;

Disturbed that the relevant Government Agencies have not shown much concern to the plights of the people;

Aware that the affected communities are the food basket of Edo State;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to determine and identify the cause of the spillage and enforce necessary regulations;
- (ii) Mandate the joint Committee on Petroleum Resources, Environment and Emergency and Disaster Management Agency to visit the affected areas and report back to the House (*Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale and 20 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Inserts new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
"Urge all Companies responsible for the pipeline spillage to repair the broken pipes" (*Hon. Betty Apiafia*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (ii) *Leave out all the words in Prayer (ii) (Hon. Jime Emmanuel).*

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

- (iii) *Inserts new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
"Direct Pipeline Product and Marketing Company (PPMC) to repair the broken pipes (*Hon. Chinyere Igwe*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to

The House;

Noted that on July 18, 2008, there was an oil spillage in Idoa and Ukhun communities in Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State;

Further noted that the spillage has spread to other communities in the area causing tremendous damage to the environment and aquatic life;

Worried that the spillage has claimed many lives and properties, farmlands and livestock;

Disturbed that the relevant Government Agencies have not shown much concern to the plights of the people;

Aware that the affected communities are the food basket of Edo State;

Resolved to:

Urge the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to determine and identify the cause of the spillage and enforce necessary regulations (HR. 39/2008).

15. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Widows and Orphans Protection Commission and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — *Second Reading:*

Bill by leave of the House withdrawn.

16. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 24 July, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 5.00 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker