



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 15 July, 2008

1. The House met at 10.20 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 10 July, 2008.

By unanimous consent the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Announcement:**
Visitors:
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the presence in the Gallery of Teachers and Pupils of Louisville Girls Secondary School, Old Kufunku, Gwagwalada, Abuja.
4. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:
 - (i) Hon. Abasi Braimah (*Etsako East/West Central Federal Constituency*), from Fatima Bello Afegbua, praying the House to investigate her alleged unjust disengagement from the National Board For Technical Education and re-instate her;
 - (ii) Hon. KGB Oguakwa (*Aninri/Agwu/Oji-Uzo Federal Constituency*), from Mr Alex Kelechi Ifejika, praying the House to intervene and redress his alleged unjust and unlawful termination of appointment by Julius Berger Nigeria Plc;
 - (iii) Hon. Abdulkareem Saliu (*Adavi/Okehi Federal Constituency*), from Ex-Sgt Salami Salawu (No. 8268), praying the House to intervene in his alleged unlawful dismissal from the Nigeria Police Force after twenty years of meritorious service and grant him the relief sought in the petition.
5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**
Pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 4, the following Matters of Urgent Public Importance were brought before the House:
 - (i) Hon. Umuoji Chukwuma (*Aguata Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the international dimension which the Niger Delta Crisis was assuming and the potential danger of escalation of the crisis. He therefore 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 negatived.
 - (ii) Hon. Friday Itula (*Esan North East/South West Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the ravaging constant erosion at Illushi Community of Edo State and the need for the Federal Government to intervene. He urged the House to consider it as a matter of Urgent Public Importance.

Question that the matter be considered as one of Urgent Public Importance put and negated.

6. **Presentation of Bills:**

(i) Prohibition of Sale and Use of Corrosive Substances Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

(ii) National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — *Read the First Time.*

7. **High Cost of Diesel (AGO) in Nigeria: Need for Federal Government Subsidy:**

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that for the past few months the Nation has witnessed an astronomical rise in the prices of petroleum products especially diesel (AGO) and DPK (Kerosene);

Further notes that the prices of Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS) and kerosene already enjoying subsidy are rather expensive and scarce with diesel (AGO) now being sold at N200 per litre;

Worried that the price of these products have been on the increase in recent time and could unfold hardship on the citizenry, if nothing is done by the Government to bring down the prices;

Further worried that if the prices are not subsidised like Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS), they may soon go out of reach of the average Nigerian and may result in the dislocation of both economic and social activities especially against the backdrop of the fact that the country is experiencing unreliable power supply;

Resolves to:

(i) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to subsidize the price of diesel (AGO) through the Petroleum Support Fund (PSF);

(ii) Urge the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) to work out an acceptable price regime for these products (*Hon. Clever Ikisikpo and 11 Others*).

Debate:

Motion by leave of the House withdrawn.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Pension Institute of Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 — Second Reading:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Pension Institute of Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008, be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Stanley Ohajuruka).

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 Pensions.

9. **Consideration of Reports:**

(i) **Committee on Rules and Business:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Rules and Business on the Review of House Standing Orders and approve the Recommendations therein" (Hon. Ita Enang).

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)

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND BUSINESS
ON THE REVIEW OF HOUSE STANDING ORDERS

(i) **Order XVII (B) — Committees of the House: Establishment**

Committee Recommendation:

Establish the following additional Standing Committees:

1. Committee on Internal Security
2. Committee on Federal Character
3. Committee on Population
4. Committee on Steel
5. Committee on Diaspora
6. Committee on Constituency Development
7. Committee on Civil Society and Donor Agencies (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that Order XVII (B) as amended, stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

(ii) **Order IV Sitzings of the House:**

Committee Recommendation:

Inserts new Rule 1 (3) "Mode of addressing the House" "A Member shall address the House while standing" (Hon. Ita Enang).

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "standing" *insert as follows:*

"except physically challenged or at the discretion of the Presiding Officer" (Hon. Abdul Ningi).

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

Question that Order IV, Rule 1 (3) as amended, stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

(iii) **Order IV, Rule 2 (4) Sitzings of the House:**

Committee Recommendation:

"On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday, the House shall meet at 10.00 a.m. and unless previously adjourned shall sit until 6.00 p.m. provided that at 1.30 p.m. the Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 2.00 p.m." (Hon. Ita Enang).

Amendment Proposed:

Retain the provision in the Standing Orders (Hon. Abdulrahman Kawu).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that Order IV, Rule 2 (4) as amended, stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

(iv) **Order V (Privileges):**

Committee Recommendation:

Insert a new Rule 1 (c) as follows;

"A Member raising a matter of Privilege shall draw the attention of the House to the provision(s) of the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act and other statutes breached in relation to him" (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question put and negatived.

(v) Order IX, Rules 3 (2) — Rules of Debate:

Committee Recommendation:

A Member may speak for, or against the Motion. But during consideration of Bills, Report and other measures, a Member can speak on the Bill, pointing out the merits and demerits of the Bill, including statutory and constitutional issues for and against such measure. He is not to speak for or against, because the debate is on the general principles (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that Order IX, Rule 3 (2) as amended, stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

(vi) Order XII, Rule 1 (2) (Procedure on Bills):

Committee Recommendation:

In line 4, immediately after the word "Published" *leave out* the words "Three successive issues" and *insert* instead thereof the words "one issue" (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that Order XII, Rule 1 (2) as amended, stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

(vii) Order XIV — Membership of Committees:

Committee Recommendation:

Inserts new Rule 1 (2) as follows;

The Minimum number of Members in a Committee shall be 25, and maximum 30, except Committees on Appropriation, Public Accounts and Niger Delta Development, each of which will have a minimum of 36, and a maximum of 40 Members (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "Appropriations" *leave out* all the words in the Recommendation and *insert* instead thereof "The minimum number of Members in a Committee shall be 25 and not more than 30 except the Committees on Appropriation, Constituency Development and Federal Character, each of which shall have a minimum of 37 and not more than 40 Members" (*Hon. Olaka Nwogu*).

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

Question that Order XIV, Rule 1 (2) as amended, stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

(viii) Order XIV, Rule 1 (2):

Committee Recommendation:

Retain the provision in the Standing Orders (Hon. Ita Enang).

Question put and agreed to.

(ix) **Order XVII (B) — The Jurisdiction of the New Committees:**

Committee Recommendation:

1. **Committee on Internal Security:**

- (1) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Internal Security consisting of not less than 25 and not more than 30 Members constituted during the life of the House.
- (2) The Committee's jurisdiction shall be:
 - (a) To study the Internal Security policy of the House of Representatives and the National Assembly and advise on same;
 - (b) To design the policy and process of intelligence gathering, synthesis and possible response in matters of international security; ,
 - (c) To design and implement pre-emptive measures on security of the precinct and appurtenance of the Residential quarters of Members and periodically alert on perceived threat to security;
 - (d) To address other such matters as may in the course of the assignment be referred to it;
 - (e) To liaise with the Sergeant-at-Arms to ensure the security of the National Assembly Complex in Abuja and other real and movable properties of the national Assembly;
 - (f) Annual Budget Estimate (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question put and agreed to.

2. **Committee on Federal Character:**

- (1) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Federal Character consisting of a minimum of 37 and not more than 40 Members constituted during the life of the House.
- (2) The Committee's Jurisdiction shall cover:
 - (a) Oversight over the Federal Character Commission;
 - (b) To investigate complaints of non compliance with the Federal Character principles by Ministries, Departments and Agencies and advice the House thereon;
 - (c) Ensure that the Commission complies with the functions assign to it in the constitution;
 - (d) promote, monitor and ensure compliance with the principles of proportional sharing of all posts at all levels of Government
 - (e) Ensuring that all appointment into every public company, or sector of the economy or polity and corporation reflect the Federal Character in its Directors and Senior Management cadres;
 - (f) Annual Budget Estimate (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that Order XVII (B) as amended, stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Rules and Business on the Review of House Standing Orders and approved the creation of seven (7) additional Committees, amended Order IV, Rule 1 (3), retained Order IV, Rule 2 (4), rejected Order V, new Rule 1 (c), amended Order IX, Rule 3 (2), Order XII, Rule I (2) and approved Order XIV, new Rule 1 (2) and amended Order XVII {B} — the Jurisdictions of the Committees on Internal Security and Federal Character.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Whole, put and agreed to.

10. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 16 July, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. {Hon. Tunde Akogun}.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.20 p.m.

Usman Bayero Nafada
Deputy Speaker