



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 9 August, 2005

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1. The House met at 10.45 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, 4 August, 2005.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
 3. **Announcements:**
 - (i) **Visitors:**
Mr Speaker announced the presence in the Gallery, of some Members of the Egor Local Government Council of Edo State.
 - (ii) **ANPP Leadership in the House of Representatives:**
Mr Speaker announced the new Party Leadership of the All Nigeria Peoples' Party (ANPP) as follows:

(a)	Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambawal	—	<i>Leader</i>
(b)	Hon. Victor Lar	—	<i>Deputy Leader</i>
(c)	Hon. Almajir Geidam	—	<i>Whip</i>
(d)	Hon. Ubong Etiebet	—	<i>Deputy Whip.</i>
 4. **Presentation of Bills:**
 - (i) National Automotive Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005—*Read The First Time.*
 - (ii) Personal Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005—*Read The First Time.*
 - (iii) Petroleum Profit Tax Bill, 2005—*Read The First Time.*
 - (iv) Education Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005—*Read The First Time.*
 - (v) Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2005—*Read The First Time.*
 - (vi) Customs, Excise Tariff, etc. (Consolidation) (Amendment) Bill, 2005—*Read The First Time.*
 - (vii) National Sugar Development Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005—*Read The First Time.*
 - (viii) Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005—*Read The First Time.*
 - (ix) Company Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005—*Read The First Time.*

5. Soaring Prices of Foodstuffs and Other Essential Commodities and its Nexus with Costs of Living of Ordinary Nigerians:

Motion made and Question proposed, "The House:

Recognises that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government;

Is aware that ordinary Nigerians are increasingly faced with unbearable costs of living;

Is deeply concerned with the ominous food insecurity, as a result of unavailability and prohibitive costs of foodstuffs and other essential commodities;

Recalls that the just concluded recess and the routine constituency-visits revealed an appalling level of hunger and poverty that threaten the living conditions of most Nigerians;

Is worried that Nigeria's earnings have quadrupled, in recent years, albeit poverty level has increased; and conditions of living have remained poor;

Resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the Federal Government to release and sell grains from strategic-grains, reserve at subsidized rates, and to distribute some, free of charge, where necessary, to avert an impending food crisis;
- (ii) set up an *Ad-Hoc* Committee to look into the causes of skyrocketing prices of foodstuffs and other essential commodities;
- (iii) embark on any other measure(s) that will alleviate the sufferings of the people" (*Hon. Haruna Yerima and 17 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in prayer (i) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"urge the Federal Government to release and sell grains from strategic-grains reserve and distribute at heavily subsidized rates, where necessary, to avert an impending food crisis" (*Hon. Dayo Ogunniyi*).

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

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), line 2, immediately after the words "essential commodities" *insert* the words "with a view to remedying the situation" (*Hon. Abubakar Momoh*).

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

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"urge the Federal Government to put on hold the exportation of cassava to China until the situation improves" (*Hon. Ganiyu Solomon*).

Question, that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iv) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"urge the Federal Government to put on hold the proposed increase in prices of petroleum products" (*Hon. Abubakar Maifata*).

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

- (v) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"urge the Federal Government to direct policies towards investing in the agricultural sector" (*Hon. Leo Ogor*).

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

- (vi) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*
"urge the Federal Government to establish food preservation centres to evenly provide for the availability of other food crops during out-of-season periods" (*Hon. Nkechi Nwaogu*).

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

- (vii) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*
"advise the Federal Government as a matter of urgency to reduce the cost of fertilizer to make it affordable to farmers" (*Hon. Kabir Umar*).

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

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Recognized that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government;

Was aware that ordinary Nigerians are increasingly faced with unbearable costs of living;

Was deeply concerned with the ominous food insecurity, as a result of unavailability and prohibitive costs of foodstuffs and other essential commodities;

Recalled that the just concluded recess and the routine constituency visits revealed an appalling level of hunger and poverty that threaten the living conditions of most Nigerians;

Worried that Nigeria's earnings have quadrupled, in recent years, albeit poverty level had increased; and conditions of living had remained poor;

Resolved to:

- (i) *Urge* the Federal Government to release and sell grains from strategic-grains reserve and distribute at heavily subsidized rates, where necessary, to avert an impending food crisis;
- (ii) *Set up an Ad-Hoc Committee* to look into the causes of skyrocketing prices of foodstuffs and other essential commodities, with a view to remedying the situation;
- (iii) *Embark* on any other measure(s) that will alleviate the sufferings of the people;
- (iv) *Urge* the Federal Government to put on hold the proposed increase in prices of petroleum products;
- (v) *Further urge* the Federal Government to direct policies towards investing in the agricultural sector;
- (vi) *Also urge* the Federal Government to establish food preservation centres to evenly provide for the availability of other food crops during out-of-season periods;
- (vii) *Advise* the Federal Government as a matter of urgency to reduce the cost of fertilizer to make it affordable to farmers (**HR. 24/2005**).

6. Flood Disaster in Taraba State:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House notes that:

Jalingo, the Taraba State Capital, on 7th August, 2005 experienced a heavy rainfall causing massive over-flooding of major streets;

Over 100 persons died, including an Assistant Commissioner of Police and other Police Officers, in the process of rescuing victims of the flood;

The Collapse of the bridge along Wukari-Jalingo road that links the State Capital with the two other Senatorial Districts has destabilized economic and social activities within the State. Vast hectares of farmlands, livestock and other farm-produce have been submerged, property worth millions of Naira have

Resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials to the affected areas;
- (ii) *Further urge* the Federal Ministry of Works to reconstruct the bridge along Wukari - Jalingo road, immediately, to restore normal business and social activities;
- (iii) *Mandate* the House Committees on Environment and Disaster Management to visit the affected areas to ascertain the extent of damage and report to the House;
- (iv) *Urge* the Federal Government to provide facilities for rescue operations for natural or man-made disasters in each of the State capitals;
- (v) *Urge* the Federal Government to honour the Assistant Commissioner of Police and other Police officers that lost their lives in the disaster, posthumously" (*Hon. Emmanuel Bwacha and 33 Others*)

(A minute in silence was observed in honour of those who lost their lives in the flood disaster that occurred on Sunday, 7 August, 2005 in Taraba State).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after word "urgently" *insert* the words "ascertain the extent of the damage and" (*Hon. Kayode Amusan*).

Question, that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), States and Local Governments to urgently send relief materials to the affected areas" (*Hon. Abubakar Momoh*).

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

Other Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"mandate the House Committees on Environment, Disaster Management and Works to visit the affected areas to ascertain the extent of damage and report to the House" (*Hon. Abubakar Momoh*).

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

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (iv) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"urge the Federal, State and Local Governments to provide facilities for rescue operations for natural or man-made disasters in each State capital and Local Government headquarters" (*Hon. Mba Ajah and Hon. Saleh Minjibir*).

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

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
"urge every Member to contribute at least ₦10,000.00 to assist the victims of the disaster" (*Hon. Garba Matazu*).

Question, that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iv) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
"the Federal Ministry of Works to set up Road-Camp with officials to patrol and detect road and bridges that need urgent attention" (*Hon. Moshood Tokunbo*).

Question, that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House noted that:

Jalingo, the Taraba State Capital, on 7 August, 2005 experienced a heavy rainfall causing massive over flooding of major streets;

Over 100 persons died, including an Assistant Commissioner of Police and other Police Officers, in the process of rescuing victims of the flood;

The Collapse of the bridge along Wukari-Jalingo road that linked the State Capital with the two other Senatorial Districts had destabilized economic and social activities within the State. Vast hectares of farmlands, livestock and other farm-produce had been submerged, property worth millions of Naira had been destroyed and many people have lost their farmlands;

Resolved to:

- (i) *Urge* the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials to the affected areas;
- (ii) *Further urge* the Federal Ministry of Works to reconstruct the bridge along Wukari - Jalingo road, immediately, to restore normal business and social activities;
- (iii) *Mandate* the House Committees on Environment, Disaster Management and Works to visit the affected areas to ascertain the extent of damage and report to the House;
- (iv) *Urge* the Federal, State and Local Governments to provide facilities for rescue operations for natural or man-made disasters in each State capital and Local Government headquarters
- (v) *Urge* the Federal Government to honour the Assistant Commissioner of Police and other Police officers that lost their lives in the disaster, posthumously (**HR. 25/2005**).

7. A Bill for an Act to Prescribe the Formula for Distribution of Revenue Accruing to the Federation Account among the Federal, State and Local Government Including the Federal Capital Territory and Area Councils; and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2004 (*Adjourned Debate:*)

Debate Resumed.

Debate Adjourned.

8. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 10 August, 2005 at 2.00 p.m. (*Hon. Bawa Bwari*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.30 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker