



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 11 August, 2005

1. The House met at 10.52 a.m. Mr Speaker read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 10 August, 2005.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

- 3 **Announcement:**
Mr Speaker read a letter from Hon. Okwudili Uzoka:

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BOX 337,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
3, ARMS ZONE, ABUJA.

Rep. (Ojiiba) Okwudili Uzoka
Ogbaru Federal Constituency, Anambra State

*His Excellency
The Speaker
House of Representatives
Abuja*

Your Excellency,

9th August, 2005

MAJOR BOAT DISASTER IN OGBARU

It is with great pains and sorrow that I write to report a major boat disaster in Ogbaru, my constituency. It occurred in the early hours of 2nd August, 2005 when a large wooden boat loaded with yams, cassava, and other farm produce, and over 80 passengers (mostly women) sank off the beach at Umunankwo town. The boat was conveying the passengers and goods to a nearby weekly market.

The brave and timely intervention of the people of Umunankwo helped in the rescue of about forty persons, in spite of the biting cold at that time of the morning.

An appeal for help in recovering the bodies of the victims of the disaster was made to the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), but nothing whatsoever came from them, and all the recovery was done by the local communities.

In all, about 40 persons perished in that unfortunate incident. All the wares worth several hundred thousands of Naira were lost as well.

The entire people of Ogbaru Federal Constituency therefore ask for your prayers for the peaceful repose of the souls of the victims, and also for NEMA to organise relief for the affected families

Thank You, Your Excellency, and God Bless

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Rep. (Ojiiba) Okwudili Uzoka

Cc: The President of the Senate, National Assembly.

(A minute in silence was observed in however of those who lost their lives in the Boat Disaster).

4. Petitions:

A petition was received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

Hon. Bala J. Ngilari, from John Tizhe, praying the House to investigate the non payment of his Termination benefits by the Nigeria Wire and Cable Company Plc, Abuja and grant reliefs sought in the petition.

5. Investigation of Extra Judicial Killing of Persons Allegedly Detained by Bakassi Boys at Aba, Abia State:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Recognizes that Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 copiously guaranteed Fundamental Human Rights;

Is aware that by the combined effect of Section 214 of the said Constitution and Section 4 of the Police Act Cap. 359, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990, the Nigeria Police Force is the only body charged with the responsibility of Law Enforcement in Nigeria;

Is disturbed that our society has degenerated into the primordial status in which citizens' lives are shortened in very brutish and nasty manner—to the extent that human life does not command value, anymore;

Recalls that the Federal Government had, in the past, made efforts to proscribe such sinister, clannish organizations as the Bakassi, Egbesu, the O'dua People's Congress (OPC) and so forth;

Is worried that these sordid organizations have still usurped the statutory and constitutionally enshrined functions of the Nigeria Police;

Is pained at the recent incident where Bakassi Boys in Aba unlawfully detained some Nigerian citizens only to dump 30 of them as dead bodies some days later;

Resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the Federal Government to set up a Judicial Commission of Inquiry to investigate the circumstances that led to the death of these citizens in the hands of the Bakassi Boys and bring all culprits to justice;
- (ii) *Further urge* the Nigeria Police to live up to their Constitutional role of maintaining law and order in the country;
- (iii) *Advise* the Federal Government to ensure that the security situation in the country is beefed up (*Hon. Mba Ajjah and 15 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

"constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the incidents and report to the House in Three weeks" (*Hon. C. Macebuh*).

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"condemn Extra Judicial killing in any form and or under any guise by any body or group of persons" (*Hon. Aminu W. Tambuwal, Hon. Victor Lar and Hon. Frank Ineke*).

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

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Recognized that Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 copiously guaranteed Fundamental Human Rights;

Was aware that by the combined effect of Section 214 of the said Constitution and Section 4 of the Police Act, Cap. 359, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990, the Nigeria Police Force is the only body charged with the responsibility of Law Enforcement in Nigeria;

Was disturbed that our society has degenerated into the primordial status in which citizens' lives are shortened in very brutish and nasty manner to the extent that human life does not command value, anymore;

Recalled that Federal Government had, in the past, made efforts to proscribe such sinister, clannish organizations as the Bakassi, Egbesu, the O'dua People's Congress (OPC) and so forth;

Was worried that these sordid organizations have still usurped the statutory and constitutionally enshrined functions of the Nigeria Police;

Was pained at the recent incident where Bakassi Boys in Aba unlawfully detained some Nigerian citizens only to dump 30 of them as dead bodies some days later;

Resolved to:

- (i) *Urge* the Federal Government to set up a Judicial Commission of Inquiry to investigate the circumstance that led to the death of these citizens in the heads of the Bakassi Boys and bring all culprits to justice;
- (ii) *Further urge* the Nigeria Police to live up to their Constitutional role of maintaining law and order in the country;
- (iii) *Advise* the Federal Government to ensure that the security situation in the country is beefed up;
- (iv) *Constitute* an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the incidents and report to the House in Three weeks;
- (v) *Condemn* Extra Judicial killing in any form and or under any guise by any body or group of persons (**HR. 26/2005**).
6. **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 (HB. 136)—Second Reading (Adjourned Debate 10/8/2005):**

Debate Resumed.

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

Bill now read a Second Time and referred to an Ad-hoc Committee that will be specially constituted.

(Members ordered to meet on State basis and nominate 1 one Member for inclusion in the Ad-hoc Committee).

7. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 16 August, 2005 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Gilbert Nnaji*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.30 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker