



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 22 September, 2005

1. The House met at 10.53 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, 21 September, 2005.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Idemili North/South Federal Constituency, Anambra State (Membership):**
Mr Speaker drew the attention of the House to the protracted determination of the election-petition arising from the election in the above Federal Constituency. He disclosed that he had received copies of the Judgments of the Election Tribunal and the Court of Appeal, respectively, which nullified the election of Hon. Jerry Ugokwe to the House of Representatives. Furthermore, the Legal Department of the National Assembly had advised that Hon. Jerry Ugokwe's Appeal on the matter, pending in the ECOWAS Court, should be disregarded.

Relying on Order II, Rule 6 of the Standing Orders of the House to the effect that every Member shall, before taking his seat, submit his certificate of election to the Speaker, etc. and also on the Judgment of the Court of Appeal being the last court on elections to the National Assembly, which declared the petitioner validly elected/returned as the winner of the election into the Idemili North/South Federal Constituency, Mr Speaker urged the Independent National Electoral Commission to resolve the impasse within 14 (fourteen) days.

Concluding, he barred Hon. Jerry Ugokwe from participating in any business of the House and directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to enforce the **Order**.

4. **Presentation of Bills:**
 - (i) Money Laundering (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (HB. 194)—*Read the First Time.*
 - (ii) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment, etc.) (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (HB. 195)—*Read the First Time.*
 - (iii) Penal Code (Application to Federal Capital Territory, Abuja) (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (HB. 183)—*Read the First Time.*
 - (iv) Armed Forces Hospital Management Board Bill, 2005 (HB. 162)—*Read the First Time.*
 - (v) Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (HB. 165)—*Read the First Time.*

5. **Massive Oil Spillage and Threat to Ecosystem:**
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Is informed that there has been continuous eruption (spillage) from pipelines in Jeremy area of Ugheli South L.G.A. of Delta State, in the last one month; over 7 spillages were recorded in the area within 2 weeks, following equipment failure due to expired pipeline networks;

Is disturbed that these spillages have caused complete degradation of the environment;

Is concerned that frequent oil spillages have inflicted massive environmental degradation and damage to the ecosystem;

Resolves to:

- (i) *mandate* a Joint-Committee on Petroleum Refineries and Environment to visit the area to ascertain the extent of damage the spillage had caused and the level of decay of the pipelines network in the areas;
- (ii) *invite* the SPDC to present a master-plan for expired pipeline replacement in the area and indeed all pipeline networks in the country;
- (iii) *urge* NEMA to send relief materials to the people of the affected area;
- (iv) that the Joint Committee monitor the Environmental Impact Assessment when it is carried out (*Hon. Chris Oghenehovwen and 23 Others*).

Debate:

Main Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Is informed that there has been continuous eruption (spillage) from pipelines in Jeremy area of Ugheli South L.G.A. of Delta State, in the last one month; over 7 spillages were recorded in the area within 2 weeks, following equipment failure due to expired pipeline networks;

Is disturbed that these spillages have caused complete degradation of the environment;

Is concerned that frequent oil spillages have inflicted massive environmental degradation and damage to the ecosystem;

Resolved to:

- (i) *mandate* a Joint-Committee on Petroleum Refineries and Environment to visit the area to ascertain the extent of damage the spillage had caused and the level of decay of the pipelines network in the areas;
- (ii) *invite* the SPDC to present a master-plan for expired pipeline replacement in the area and indeed all pipeline networks in the country;
- (iii) *urge* NEMA to send relief materials to the people of the affected area;
- (iv) that the Joint Committee monitor the Environmental Impact Assessment when it is carried out (**HR. 34/2005**).

6. Admission into the Nigerian Law School:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the difficulties fresh law graduates face in obtaining placements in the Nigerian Law School;

Further notes that the establishment of multi-campus has not helped in absorbing students who have successfully graduated in Law Studies from our Universities;

Is concerned that placement in any of the four Campuses of the Nigerian Law School had become politicized and highly competitive, thus hampering the quest for the acquisition of knowledge by Nigerians;

Is aware of the role the Law School had played in the growth of the Judiciary and Legal Practice in Nigeria and the pains caused to parents, guardians and government in securing placement for their wards;

Resolves to:

- (i) *request* that the four Campuses of the Nigerian Law School take immediate steps to absorb all successful law graduates from Nigerian Universities currently idling at home;
- (ii) *mandate* the House Committee on Justice to conduct a public enquiry into the remote and immediate causes of the problems encountered by law graduates in securing admission into the Law School and report to the House within 2 Weeks;
- (iii) *call on* the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice and the Minister of Education to institute a panel of inquiry to examine and find lasting solutions to the declining standard in the Law School and problems of legal education in Nigeria (*Hon. Halims Agoda and 25 Others*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in prayers (i) and (Hi) (*Hon. Ughanze N. C.*)—*Agreed to.*

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the difficulties fresh law graduates face in obtaining placements in the Nigerian Law School;

Further noted that the establishment of multi-campus have not helped in absorbing students who have successfully graduated in Law Studies from our Universities;

Is concerned that placement in any of the four Campuses of the Nigerian Law School have become politicized and highly competitive, thus hampering the quest for the acquisition of knowledge by Nigerians;

Was aware of the role the Law School had played in the growth of the Judiciary and Legal Practice in Nigeria and the pains caused to parents, guardians and government in securing placement for their wards;

Resolved to:

mandate the House Committee on Justice to conduct a public enquiry into the remote and immediate causes of the problems encountered by law graduates in securing admission into the Law School and report to the House within 2 Weeks (*HR. 35/2005,1.*

7. A Bill for An Act to Regulate the Establishment of Mental Health Institutions in the Federation by Government, Private Organizations or Individuals, and to Proffer Standards, Rules and Other Incidental Matters for the Treatment, Care and Security of Mentally-Ill Persons, and to Repeal Certain Acts Specified therein, 2004 (SB. 30)—Second Reading:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That A Bill for An Act to Regulate the Establishment of Mental Health Institutions in the Federation by Government, Private Organizations or Individuals, and to Proffer Standards, Rules and Other Incidental Matters for the Treatment, Care and Security of Mentally-Ill Persons, and to Repeal Certain Acts Specified Therein, 2004 be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned; Chairmen of Committees on Justice, Judiciary and Health mandated to re-examine the Bill and advise the Leader of the House.

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Psychiatric Hospitals Management Board Act, to Create a Separate Board for Each of the Psychiatric Hospitals in the Federation, and to Provide for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2004 (SB. 1)—Second Reading:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That A Bill for an Act to Amend the Psychiatric Hospitals Management Board Act, to Create a Separate Board for Each of the Psychiatric Hospitals in the Federation, and to Provide for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2004 be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned.

9. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 27 September, 2005 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Abdul Mngi*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.15 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker