



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 12 March, 2009

1. The House met at 10.55 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, 11 March, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership:**
Hon. Okechukwu Udeh (*Member-elect from Orumba North/Orumba South Federal Constituency of Anambra State*), took and subscribed the oaths as prescribed by law.

4. **Announcement:**
Visitor:
Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Gallery, of the Chairman and Members of the Council of Musawa Local Government Area, Katsina State.

5. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

- (i) Hon. Lanre Agoro (*Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo Federal Constituency*), from O. A. Atoyebi and Co. on behalf of a group of Retirees, praying the House to investigate their alleged unlawful dismissal by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), with a view to paying their entitlements;
- (ii) Hon. Ihiabe S.A. Positive (*Dekina/Bassa Federal Constituency*), from Mr Andrew Aisa, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful dismissal from the Nigeria Police Force, with a view to re-instating him.

6. **Presentation of Reports:**
 - (i) **Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream):**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream)" (Hon. Clever M. Ikisikpo).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

- (ii) **Committee on Air Force:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Air Force" (Hon. John Halims O. Agoda).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

7. The Need to Halt the Proliferation of Illegal Universities:
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that Education is the bedrock for development in all nations and Nigeria cannot be an exception;

Further notes the right of all Nigerians to have unlimited access to education at all levels;

Aware that the National Universities Commission (NUC) has the primary duty of regulating and granting license to investors in the Educational Sector for the purpose of establishing private Universities;

Further aware that over fifty Universities located all over the country are illegal with a population of about 100,000 students running various courses without accreditation from the National Universities Commission (NUC);

Worried that some of these illegal Universities had been in existence for over 5 years and had graduated students with degrees in various disciplines not recognized by law and deprived from participation in the mandatory National Youth Service Corps Scheme;

Disturbed that the continued admission of students into these illegal Universities will not only expose the beneficiaries to frustration and widen the coast of unemployed Youth but will weaken and trivialize University education;

Resolves to:

Mandate the House Committee on Education to Investigate the existence of illegal Universities, identify the promoters of such illegal institutions, proffer solution to salvage the future of the students who are already admitted into these illegal Universities, prescribe sanctions for promoters of these illegal Universities and report to the House within 2 weeks (*Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun and 28 Others*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in the Prayer and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Mandate the House Committee on Education to investigate the existence of unauthorized Universities and other Institutions of Higher learning identify the promoters of such unauthorized Institutions and report to the House within 2 weeks" (*Hon. Soli Sada*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in the Prayer and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Mandate the House Committee on Education to investigate the existence of illegal Universities, proffer solution to salvage the future of the students who are already admitted into these illegal universities, by effectively transferring them to other legal universities to enable them conclude their studies. And identify the promoters of such illegal institutions, recommend necessary sanctions to the House within 4 weeks" (*Hon. Austin Nwachukwu*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iii) In line 4 of the Prayer, *leave out* the words "2 weeks" and *insert* the words "four weeks to carry out an extensive investigation on the matter" instead thereof (*Hon. Garba Shehu Matazu*).

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

- (iv) In line 1, immediately after the word "Universities" *insert* the following:
"Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and other tertiary institutions in Nigeria" (*Hon. Ihiabe Samson A. Positive*).

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

- (v) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
"Mandate the House Committee on Education to examine the conditions for the granting of licences for the establishment of Private Tertiary Institutions with a view to making those conditions attainable by the Proprietors of the Tertiary Institutions" (*Hon. Samson Osagie*).

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

- (vi) *Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:*
"Urge the Federal Ministry of Education, Regulatory and Enforcement agencies to do every thing lawful to specifically forestall the existence of all the illegal educational institutions in Nigeria" (*Hon. Rabe Nasir*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (vii) *Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:*
"Mandate the House Committee on Education to come up with an amendment to the National Universities Commission Act" (*Hon. Makanjuola Gbenga*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Education is the bedrock for development in all nations and Nigeria cannot be an exception;

Further notes the right of all Nigerians to have unlimited access to education at all levels;

Aware that the National Universities Commission (NUC) has the primary duty of regulating and granting license to investors in the Educational Sector for the purpose of establishing private Universities;

Further aware that over fifty Universities located all over the country are illegal with a population of about 100,000 students running various courses without accreditation from the National Universities Commission (NUC);

Worried that some of these illegal Universities had been in existence for over 5 years and had graduated students with degrees in various disciplines not recognized by law and deprived from participation in the mandatory National Youth Service Corps Scheme;

Disturbed that the continued admission of students into these illegal Universities would not only expose the beneficiaries to frustration and widen the coast of unemployed Youth but would weaken and trivialize University education;

Resolved to mandate the Committee on Education to:

- (i) Investigate the existence of illegal Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and other Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria, identify the promoters of such illegal institutions, proffer solution to salvage the future of the students who were already admitted into these illegal institutions, prescribe sanctions for their promoters and report to the House within 4 weeks;
- (ii) Examine the conditions for the granting of licences for the establishment of Private Tertiary Institutions with a view to making those conditions attainable by the Proprietors of the Tertiary Institutions;
- (iii) Come up with an amendment to the National Universities Commission Act (HR. 13/2009).

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Honours Act, Cap. N43 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide that the Award of National Honours shall be subject to the confirmation of the National Assembly, 2009 — Second Reading;

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Honours Act, Cap. N43 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide that the Award of National Honours shall be subject to the confirmation of the National Assembly, 2009 be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabamila*).

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee of Whole.

9. Adjournment:

And it being 1.55 p. m. the House adjourned till Tuesday, 17 March, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker