



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 9 July, 2009

1. The House met at 11.17 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, 8 July, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

Executive Session — 11.20 a.m.

House in Plenary — 1.40 p.m.
3. **Report of the Executive Session:**
By leave of the House, Hon. Emeka Ihedioha reported the outcome of the Executive Session as follows:

That the House in the Executive Session deliberated on a publication in the ThisDay Newspapers of Thursday, 9 July, 2009, credited to Hon. Bitrus Kaze against the Hon. Speaker, and:
 - (i) condemned the said publication and the author, Hon. Bitrus Kaze;
 - (ii) had internally settled the matter;
 - (iii) agreed that Hon. Bitrus Kaze should publicly withdraw the publication having been satisfied that the allegation was false;
 - (iv) commended the maturity of the Leadership of the House and Members for amicable resolution of the matter.
Report unanimously adopted.
4. **Petitions:**
The following petition was received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

Hon. Sani Minjibir (*Ungogo/Minjibir Federal Constituency*), from Hon. Abdul Mumuni Chiroma and three others, praying the House to prevail on the appropriate authorities to pay the sum of two million Naira compensation to their communities for their farmlands acquired for the construction of Western By-Pass/Ring Road, in Kano State.
5. **Matters of urgent Public Importance:**
 - (i) Citing Order VIII, Rule 4, Hon. Halims Agoda invited the attention of the House to the on-going Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike and noted the non-chalant attitude of the Hon. Minister of Education concerning the strike, as it had persisted for more than two weeks during which students were at home and roaming the streets. 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) Also Citing Order VIII, Rule 4, Hon. Austin Nwachukwu, drew the attention of the House to the existing strike by Nurses and Midwives across the country. He noted that the strike had further debilitated the health conditions in the country thereby resulting in avoidable death in the nations' hospitals. He therefore, urged the House to consider the matter as one of Urgent Public Importance and to debate it forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) of the House Standing Orders be suspended to enable the House debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

6. Urgent Need to Arrest the National Strike Action by Nurses and Midwives:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the ongoing strike by Nurses and Midwives in the country;

Disturbed that the death toll this strike has caused is monumental;

Worried that many Nigerians desiring medical care are now worse off;

Concerned that many lives have already been lost in the various Teaching Hospitals and other Public Health Institutions all over the country;

Further worried that in the last one year over 400 people died in the National Hospital, Abuja;

Further concerned that the continuation of the strike will further worsen the health sector to the disadvantage of the Seven Point Agenda of Mr President.

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Minister of Health to immediately take steps that will urgently arrest the on- going strike by Nurses and Mid-wives;
- (ii) Urge the Joint Committee on Health and Legislative Compliance to investigate and unravel the circumstances surrounding the strike and the rate of death recorded in the National Hospital, Abuja and report back to the House as soon as possible (*Hon. Austin Nwachukwu*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (ii), line 3, immediately after the word "House" *leave out* all the words and *insert* the words "within one week" instead thereof (*Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa*).

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

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
Call on the Nurses and Midwives to call off the strike pending the investigation by the House Committee on Health (*Hon. Friday Itulah*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the ongoing strike by Nurses and Midwives in the country;

Disturbed that the death toll the strike had caused was monumental;

Worried that many Nigerians desiring medical care were now worse off;

Concerned that many lives had already been lost in the various Teaching Hospitals and other Public Health Institutions all over the country;

Further worried that in the last one year over 400 people died in the National Hospital, Abuja;

Further concerned that the continuation of the strike would further worsen the health sector to the disadvantage of the Seven Point Agenda of Mr President;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Minister of Health to immediately take steps that will urgently arrest the on- going strike by Nurses and Mid-wives;
- (ii) Urge the Committee on Health and Legislative compliance to investigate and unravel the circumstances surrounding the strike and the rate of death recorded in the National Hospital, Abuja and report back to the House within one week;
- (iii) Call on the Nurses and Midwives to call off the strike pending the investigation by the House Committee on Health (HR. 43/2009).

7. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) National Arbitration Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) National Arbitration Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Nigerian Institute of Arbitrators and Conciliation (Establishment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Federal Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Institute of Mediators and Conciliators (Establishment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*

8. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 14 July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie*).

Adjourned accordingly at 2.40 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker

